

'Britain could question Pan Am suspects'

CAIRO (R) — The Arab League suggested Monday that Britain could send a legal representative to Libya to hear testimony from two men accused of blowing up a Pan Am airliner over the Scottish town of Lockerbie in 1988. League Secretary-General Ezzat Abdel Meguid told reporters at Cairo airport on his return from the United Nations General Assembly in New York that "contacts are going on about this at the U.N." He said France had replied positively to the idea that a French judge investigating another bombing, that of a UTA plane over Niger in 1989, should travel to Libya to question four men suspected of involvement. The British and French cases are quite different, however. In the UTA bombing, the U.N. Security Council has demanded only that Libya cooperate with French investigations. In the Pan Am attack, it has insisted that the two suspects be handed over to either the United States or Britain for trial.

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Abu Jaber returns from U.N.

AMMAN (J.T.) — Foreign Minister Kamel Abu Jaber returned home Monday after attending United Nations General Assembly meetings in New York. In an arrival statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, the minister said he met many of his counterparts from other countries and also with the president of the General Assembly and discussed issues of mutual concern, the Middle East peace process and the turmoil in the Balkans. Dr. Abu Jaber, who delivered Jordan's annual address to the assembly last week, also held talks with U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali and reviewed with him the peace process. In his speech to the assembly, Dr. Abu Jaber presented Jordan's vision of peace in the Middle East and outlined the requirements of peace based on Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories and the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people.

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Prosecution says Al Nafeer planned to attack embassies

By Sam Attiyeh
and P.V. Vivekanand

AMMAN — The Shabab Al Nafeer Al Islami group planned to carry out rocket attacks against the American, French and British embassies in Amman, a prosecutor Monday told the State Security Court (SSC), which is trying the case of the illegal group.

The disclosure of "new evidence" by Prosecutor Muhammad Hijazi was made at the end of a five-hour session of the trial during which the court heard nine witnesses, five of them testifying to the existence and workings of the group.

It was the first day that witnesses took the stand at the trial, which began last week. The first two sessions of the trial on Tuesday and Wednesday were taken up by procedures related to formal filing of charges, prosecution clarifications of technical points raised by the defence and defendants entering pleas.

Lower House members Laith Shbeilat and Yacoub Qarash, the first and second defendants in the case, have entered not guilty pleas to the charges, which range from affiliation to a group plotting to overthrow the regime to possession of illegal weapons.

The third and fourth defendants, merchants Ahmad Ayoubi and Abdul Hamid Idkadek, have pleaded guilty of affiliation to an illegal group and possession of illegal weapons, but argue that the objective of the group was not subversion in Jordan but armed struggle against Israel.

Major Hijazi told the three-member panel of military judges at the end of the session that a raid Saturday at the residence of Mr. Ayoubi and another house at Jweida, outside Amman, had uncovered more weapons, documents and photographs indicating that Al Nafeer had planned to attack the American, French and British embassies, and that Mr. Ayoubi confessed that these embassies were targeted by the group.

Maj. Hijazi sought court permission to introduce the "new evidence" and two more witnesses. Presiding Judge Youssef Faouri reserved judgement on the request until the defence was given a chance to study the "evidence."

At the beginning of the session, Mr. Shbeilat's main lawyer, Ibrahim Bakr, questioned whether a media report that four more people were arrested in the case was true, saying that it could hurt his client.

Maj. Hijazi responded that there would be "no new charges and no new defendants" in the case. He did not refer to any new arrests or detentions.

Then, witnesses were called in one by one. Each one was brought in and told to identify himself. Then he was asked whether he knew or was "close" or "hostile" to any of the defendants before being sworn in with his right hand on the Holy Koran as all spectators stood up.

The witness was then asked to give his "testimony," as given to the prosecutor earlier. The prosecutor was offered the chance to state whether "something" was missing from earlier statements. If there was something "missing," then the witness was asked to confirm or deny it. No-one appearing Monday disowned or reversed earlier testimonies.

Through the testimonies presented Monday, the prosecution sought to establish that:

- Mr. Shbeilat and Sheikh Qarash were members of a mystic religious society until 1985 when they became "politicized."
- A group was set up in Jordan under the name Shabab Al Nafeer Al Islami with Sheikh Qarash as its leader in 1991. (None of the witnesses who appeared in court Monday made any statement implying that Mr. Shbeilat was somehow involved in the group).

The Nafeer group had external financial support, mainly from the hardline Palestinian group, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine — General Command (PFLP-GC), led by Damascus-based former Syrian army captain Ahmad Jibril.

The group did not carry out any military operations inside the occupied territories and that it was very difficult to smuggle weapons and explosives into the occupied lands.

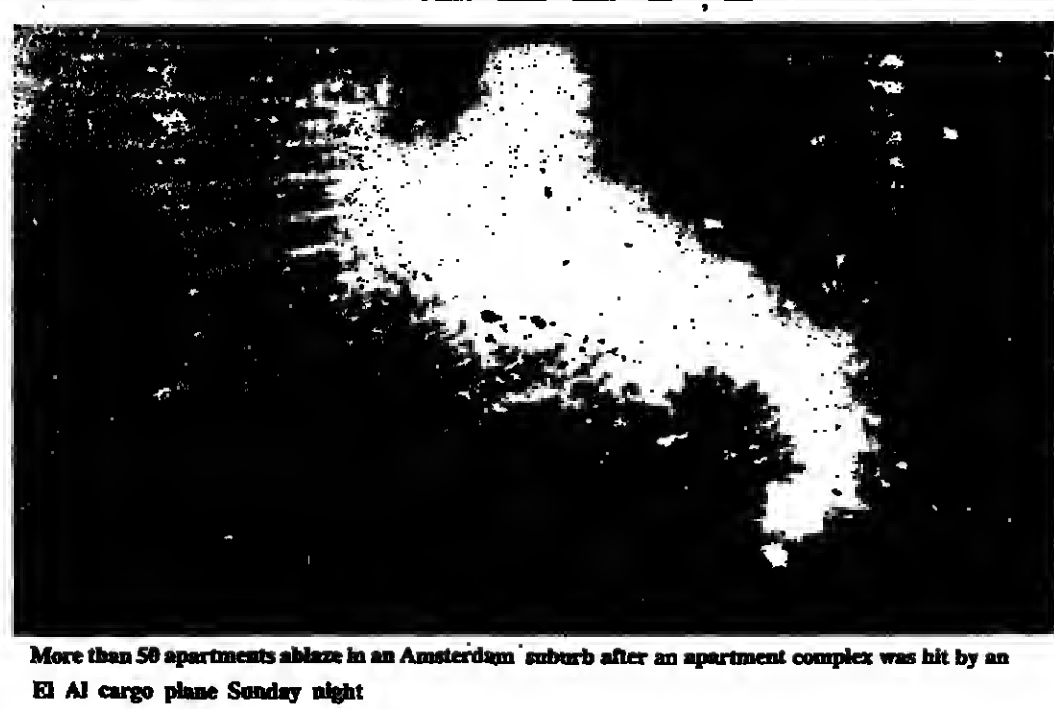
(The prosecution is seeking to counter the plea by the third and fourth defendants that the group was not planning any subversive activities in Jordan, and Maj. Hijazi's revelation of alleged plots to attack the diplomatic missions was another piece in the prosecution jigsaw.)

Some of the witnesses also testified that they were led to believe that Sheikh Qarash had links with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and was getting funds from "Abu Ammar" — PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat.

No testimony was given Monday to support the prosecution charges that Mr. Shbeilat and Sheikh Qarash had "instigated others" through their writings to topple the regime and sought to undermine Jordanian-Israeli relations or the charge against Mr. Shbeilat that he had slandered His Majesty the King and members of Parliament.

Six more witnesses are expected to be called by the prosecution.

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More than 50 apartments ablaze in an Amsterdam suburb after an apartment complex was hit by an El Al cargo plane Sunday night

Over 250 killed in El Al cargo jet crash near Schiphol

AMSTERDAM (Agencies) — Rescuers hunted through charred ruins Monday after an Israeli Jumbo jet slammed into two crowded apartment blocks, engulfing flats in flames and killing more than 250 people on the ground.

The death toll looked certain to be the worst for the number of non-passengers killed in a plane crash.

By mid-afternoon, only six bodies had been recovered from smouldering wreckage of the two adjoining nine-storey buildings hit by the El Al cargo plane shortly after it took off from Amsterdam early on Sunday evening.

"This is a disaster that has shaken the whole country," Prime Minister Ruud Lubbers said after visiting the site with a visibly moved Queen Beatrix.

Amsterdam Mayor Ed van Thijn said there was little hope for survivors.

"A rough estimate tells us that there are more than 250 people missing and there is little hope that they are still alive," he told a special session of the city council.

Officials said earlier 209 people were missing.

The El Al Boeing Jumbo 747 suffered engine problems before it plowed into the building. Officials said the crash did not seem to be caused by sabotage but Israel was not ready to rule out the possibility.

"Every possibility will be examined and checked out to find the real reason that led to this accident and brought about this disaster to Israel and a larger number of Dutch," Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin told an impromptu news conference in Tel Aviv.

However, the chances of sabotage to an El Al plane in Amsterdam were small, Israeli ambassador to the Netherlands Michael Bavli told army radio.

The Netherlands has been a strong supporter of Israel, and El Al routinely receives high security treatment at Amsterdam's Schiphol airport.

As a precaution against attacks, El Al freight jets carry no name or insignia.

Transport Minister Yisrael Kesser, noting El Al is considered one of the safest airlines in security and maintenance, said the nature of the accident was exceptional.

"It doesn't happen that both engines stop at once," he said on army radio.

Sunday's crash was the worst air disaster in Netherlands history and the second known crash in El Al's 44-year history, an airline spokesman said. An El Al DC-4 cargo plane crashed on approach to the airport in Zurich, Switzerland, in November 1951, killing six of the seven people aboard.

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Kuwaitis vote with high hopes

KUWAIT (Agencies) — Kuwait's male elite-jammed polling stations Monday for their first elections in seven years, with most hoping the results bring a parliament that will reflect the lessons learned by the Gulf crisis.

There were no exit polls or immediate projections when voting ended at 8 p.m. (1700 GMT) and ballot boxes were sealed with wax to be transported to the central counting area in each district.

Final results are expected by Tuesday afternoon.

Voters in general said they leaned towards younger, highly educated candidates who would reinforce democracy in the country.

"We lived through the war and we noticed what is good, what is bad. We are applying what the younger generation has learned. That is the difference in this election," said Ra'id Al Essa, 33, a businessman.

The official Kuwait News Agency reported that more than half the voters in 23 of the 25 constituencies had cast ballots by early evening.

Kuwaiti women marched twice on polling stations, demanding the right to vote and stand as candidates.

Protected by armed police, long queues formed at polling stations. Men went inside one by one to cast their ballots in an election precipitated by Iraq's August 1990 invasion and the Gulf war in which the U.S.-led allies liberated the emirate seven months later.

The emir, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, promised the elections while he was in exile at the height of the Gulf crisis.

Some 81,400 people, a fraction of Kuwait's 600,000 citizens, registered to vote. Voters must be male, over 21 and be able to trace their roots in Kuwait back to before 1931.

About 120 women marched on a polling station in the Shuwaikh suburb of the capital in the morning. About 60 women, including

some who had joined the first protest, later marched on another voting centre in the Mishref suburb, witnesses said.

"This is no more or less than a reminder to candidates and voters that the article in the electoral law has to be changed to allow women full rights," Fatima Hussein, who helped organise the protest, told Reuters.

The women carried brightly coloured banners at both marches reading "We're going to join you in 1996" and "Men and women together in the parliament in 1996."

In Jahra, 50 kilometres north of Kuwait City, Major Adnan Al Baqer supervised security at a polling station. He said detectives were mingling with the crowd, hunting for candidates or their supporters "buying" votes.

He said no one had been arrested. "Vote-buying" is illegal.

Voters showed their identification cards to a judge, received a

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Palestinians appeal to Red Cross

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — Leaders of the Palestinian delegation to the U.S.-backed peace talks appealed Monday to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to intervene in a dispute over prison conditions.

The appeal came as a hunger strike by Palestinian prisoners charged with anti-Israeli offences entered its ninth day.

The inmates reportedly have been taking only "water and salt" to highlight their demands for better food, more exercise and an end to extended solitary confinement.

Palestinian leader Faisal Husseini said last week some 5,000 prisoners were involved.

The Israeli prison authority refuses to say how many prisoners are participating. It says strikes are under way at "more than five" facilities. Palestinians have said inmates are striking at most of the 13 Israeli prisons.

Prison authority spokeswoman Shulamit Meiri Monday refused to say how officials were trying to resolve the impasse, saying only "in our own way."

Dr. Halid Abdul Shafi, a retired physician who heads the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks, led the meeting with the ICRC director in Israel.

Dr. Abdul Shafi told reporters the group urged the ICRC "to put some pressure on the Israelis" to reach a compromise and end the strike.

He noted that solidarity rallies were being held in a number of cities in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. Dr. Abdul Shafi was joined by Mr. Husseini, delegation spokeswoman Hanan Ashrawi and seven other Palestinian leaders.

About 200 Palestinians held a rally outside the Red Cross office in Occupied Jerusalem, singing nationalist songs and waving banners saying "free our political prisoners" and "we will starve before we kneel."

Israeli soldiers shot and wounded a leading anti-Arab Jewish activist when they opened fire on a car fleeing an arson attack on a Palestinian-owned vehicle, the army and news reports said Monday.

Noam Federman, spokesman for the radical Kach movement, was found with a bullet wound in his shoulder inside a bullet-riddled car that troops had been chasing near the West Bank city of Hebron, the army said.

The Kach movement's violent philosophy has brought it into confrontation with police and soldiers, but it is rare for Israeli soldiers to open fire on radical Jewish activists.

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1,000 die in Somalia every day

JOHANNESBURG (Agencies) — War and famine in Somalia have killed "hundreds of thousands" and more than 1,000 are dying daily despite a massive world relief effort, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) said Monday.

"The world priority of the ICRC is Somalia," Jean-Daniel Tauze, the head of Africa operation at the Geneva-based organisation, told a Johannesburg news conference.

"It is impossible to give a precise number for the number of people who have died already, but we can speak about hundreds of thousands of people. I'm afraid that we're talking about more than 1,000 people dying every day."

Estimates of the number of people dying in Somalia vary widely because the country has descended into anarchy and inter-tribal warfare since dictator Mohammed Siad Barre was overthrown in January 1991.

The ICRC is thought to be the best-informed agency in Somalia because it has operated throughout the bloodletting between rival clans that followed Mr. Siad Barre's downfall. Most other organisations withdrew.

The ICRC was providing food for more than two million Somalis in its largest relief operation since World War II, Mr. Tauze said.

Iraq ready to pay war reparations — Aziz

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz, in an interview published Monday, said Iraq was prepared to pay war reparations and cover the costs of U.N. inspection teams supervising the destruction of Iraqi weapon systems.

But Mr. Aziz repeated that Iraq rejected the conditions attached to U.N. Security Council resolutions allowing Iraq to resume oil sales under U.N. supervision.

"Iraq, basically, has not objected to the idea of selling oil to meet the necessary humanitarian and civilian needs and has not objected to the Security Council's resolution to deduct a high percentage... for the so-called reparations fund and U.N. costs," Mr. Aziz said in the interview with Al Thawra, the newspaper of the ruling Baath Party.

But, commenting on a recent U.N. resolution to seize frozen Iraqi oil assets and money, he said Iraq would reject any humiliating conditions that infringe its national sovereignty.

"Iraq has rejected the biased and vicious political aims under which resolutions 706 and 712 were passed," Mr. Aziz said.

Resolution 706 and 712 allow Iraq to sell oil worth \$1.6 billion to buy food and other humanitarian supplies for distribution inside Iraq under strict U.N. control.

Iraq turned down that offer and last month it proposed selling oil worth \$4 billion over a period

of six months, saying the initial amount was insufficient.

Mr. Aziz said Foreign Minister Mohammad Saeed Al Sahaf, who made the offer, had said Baghdad was ready to "resume negotiations over oil sales in Vienna to reach a reasonable solution that combines elements of the Iraqi proposal and U.N. interests."

Iraq also agreed to resume talks on U.N. activities in Iraq with U.N. emergency relief coordinator Jan Eliasson, he added.

Those talks reached deadlock when Iraq refused to let the United Nations post guards and relief workers in the south of the country, where the Western allies have imposed a ban on flights by Iraqi aircraft.

Iraqi Finance Minister Ahmad Hussein Khudayer said on Sunday Iraq would press on with its own offer of a partial resumption of Iraqi oil exports.

"Iraq is determined to follow up its project, submitted to the U.N. Secretary General, for permission to sell oil worth \$4 billion over a period of six months, extendable to six months more," he said.

The acceptance of this proposal and the conduct of negotiations on how to implement it would provide necessities for the Iraqi people from the north to the south," he added.

The value of the Iraqi dinar slumped Sunday on news that Iraqi assets could be seized. It fell

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Jordan reaffirms commitment

AMMAN (J.T.) — Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Beo Shaker said Monday that the Palestine question was an integral part of Jordan's life and the main concern for the Kingdom.

"Jordan seeks to establish a comprehensive peace based on justice and rights that can ensure the return of the usurped rights and lands to their lawful owners, the Palestinian people," said the prime minister at a meeting with an Israeli Arab delegation.

Sharif Zeid said that Jordan, under the leadership of His Majesty King Hussein, "will always provide backing to the Palestinian people."

Sharif Zeid welcomed the delegation which came to Jordan to offer congratulations to King Hussein on his safe return after successful surgery abroad.

The head of the delegation, Ibrahim Nimer Hussein, thanked Jordan for its continued support for the Palestinian cause.

Minister of Awaqaf and Islamic Affairs Sheikh Izzeddin Al Khattabi Al Tamimi discussed questions related to Islamic holy places in occupied Jerusalem with the visiting delegation.

"The ministry is keen on giving due care to the holy shrines in Jerusalem and will continue to provide for the development projects there," said the minister.

The minister also reviewed Jordan's efforts to safeguard the shrines of the companions of the Prophet Mohammad buried in Jordan noting that the government was undertaking a restoration and renovation programme at these sites.

In addition to a national committee for the restoration of Al Aqsa Mosque and the Dome of the Rock in Jerusalem, the government has appointed another committee to look after the holy shrines in Jordan, the minister said.

The head of the delegation

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Arafat due here today, will also go to Syria

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat is expected to arrive here Tuesday for talks with His Majesty King Hussein on the Middle East peace process, sources said Monday.

"Mr. Arafat was planning to come to Amman last week to personally congratulate King Hussein (on his safe return home after successful surgery in the U.S.), but had to change his plans because of pressing business elsewhere," said one of the sources. He did not elaborate.

Officials here said Mr. Arafat, chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), was expected at mid-morning and that he would also visit Syria for talks with President Hafez Al Assad.

Reuter quoted PLO Executive Committee member Yasser Abed Rabbo in a dispatch from Tunis as saying:

"(Palestine) President Arafat and a PLO delegation will visit Jordan within the next 24 hours and will go to Syria next."

Mr. Arafat would assess the results of the sixth round of bilateral Arab-Israeli peace talks and the prospects of the seventh round, due to open in Washington Oct. 21, Mr. Abed Rabbo said.

Mr. Arafat, who had a tense relationship with Syria for a decade, has recently shown concern that Syria might enter a separate deal with Israel before a Palestinian-Israeli agreement on the final status of the occupied territories.

But Mr. Abed Rabbo said "Syria cannot and is not willing to conclude a separate peace with Israel because the Palestinian cause is the central element in the conflict."

Israeli leaders have said they were willing to withdraw from at least some of the Golan Heights

in return for a peace treaty with Syria.

Palestinian sources said Mr. Arafat might also meet Palestinian opposition leaders during his visit to Amman and Damascus.

Mr. Abed Rabbo, who leads a wing of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, said his group favoured persevering in talks with Israel on Palestinian self-rule and criticised DFLP radicals opposed to these talks.

The other wing of the DFLP, led by Nayef Hawaameh, last month joined nine other Damascus-based Palestinian groups in opposing the peace talks and pressing for the Palestinian negotiating team to withdraw.

The French Foreign ministry said meanwhile Foreign Minister Roland Dumas will meet soon with Palestinian leaders and travel of the Arabian Peninsula as France prepares to play host to a session of the Middle East peace

talks.

The ministry spokesman, Daniel Bernard, declined to specify who Mr. Dumas would meet and gave no timetable other than "the coming weeks."

At PLO headquarters in Tunis, French Ambassador Jean-Noel de Bouillane de Lacoste relayed an "important" message from Mr. Dumas to Mr. Arafat, the Palestinian news agency Wafa reported. Its contents were not disclosed.

Mr. Dumas visited Syria, Egypt and Israel over the weekend, saying he sought to strengthen the peace process. He also has been seeking to maximise the prospects for progress on Oct. 29-30, when multilateral talks on regional economic development are scheduled to be held in Paris.

Asked if Israel or Syria had assured Mr. Dumas they would

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No end is in sight for Saudi-Qatar row

DUBAI (R) — Diplomats see no end in sight for the dispute between oil giant Saudi Arabia and its neighbour Qatar which owns the world's largest gas reserves, despite intensive damage-limitation efforts by Arab allies.

They said old rivals Iran and Iraq appeared to be fanning tension even after Saudi and Qatari leaders assured the Kuwaiti crown prince of their cooperation in ending the crisis that erupted in a border skirmish in which three people died.

The Saudi-owned newspaper Al Hayat, based in London, said Monday Qatar was preparing to withdraw from the 10,000-strong "Peninsula Shield" force of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), six-nation Gulf Arab political and economic alliance.

Officials from the two countries would not comment on the report but diplomats said a Qatari withdrawal had been widely expected since it changed its larger neighbour of aggression following last Wednesday's clash at the

Khofous border post.

Iraq has already expressed support for Qatar and Doha radio said on Monday President Saddam Hussein, whose troops were driven out of Kuwait last year by U.S.-led allies that included Qatar, had sent a message to Qatari leaders. It gave no details.

Iraq, which sees Saudi Arabia as its main rival in the Gulf after Iraq's defeat in the 1990-91 Gulf war, has also sided with Qatar which broke ranks with its GCC partners when it signed wide-ranging agreements with Tehran earlier this year.

Saudi Arabia and Qatar are joined in the GCC by Bahrain, Oman, the United Arab Emirates and Kuwait which has been leading the mediation bid as it is current GCC chairman.

Kuwait's Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah was joined in Qatar Saturday by GCC Secretary-General Abdullah Bishara.

Qatar charges that Saudi troops attacked its Khofous border

post, killing two men and capturing a third and then came back the next day to drive out the post's remaining occupants.

Saudi Arabia denied its troops were involved and said nomadic bedouins from the two countries exchanged fire on Saudi soil. It confirmed that two Qataris were killed in the exchange, and said one Saudi had also died and another been injured.

Bedouin sources in Saudi Arabia identified the dead Saudi as Prince Mohammad Ben Shuraim, chief of the Murra tribe. They told Reuters he was buried on Friday.

They said he and his followers had challenged Qataris who had apparently extended the border post into Murra tribal land across the border.

Qatar protested formally to Saudi Arabia Saturday over the clash and diplomats said Monday the Qataris maintained that Saudis continued to occupy the Khofous post.

Qatar has called on Saudi Ara-

bia to withdraw and let Qataris return to pave the way for negotiations to end the dispute.

Implicitly blaming Saudi Arabia for the crisis, a commentary by the official Iranian news agency IRNA Monday said Saudis believed the time was ripe for voicing historical claims.

"As the military machine of Iraq is smashed, the Saudis are tempted to prove that they are the only unrivaled power in the 'Persian Gulf,'" it added.

IRNA listed nine current territorial disputes between the Gulf states. "A review of these disputes will reveal that the Arabian Peninsula and the 'Persian' Gulf are like an arsenal which will explode at the smallest ignition, involving all the countries in the region," it said.

Tehran has offered a flood of advice on the dangers of reviving territorial claims in the Gulf.

Diplomats said it was apparently revelling in disarray among Arabs who only last month rallied

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Iraqi Kurds mobilise to drive out Turkish rebels

ANKARA (R) — Iraqi Kurds enraged by the presence of Turkish Kurd guerrillas in northern Iraq have launched a drive to expel them, an Iraqi Kurdish official said Monday.

Serchil Qazzaz, Ankara representative of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK), said seven people had been killed so far in the long-awaited showdown and more violence was expected. "Our patience has run out," Mr. Qazzaz said.

He said a force of 15,000 Iraqi Kurdish villagers and Peshmerga guerrillas was on the alert for action against fighters of the Kurdish Labour Party (PKK), which uses Iraqi territory to launch raids into neighbouring Turkey.

Peshmerga guerrillas surrounded a PKK headquarters in the town of Zakho near the Turkish border Sunday. Three PKK fighters were killed in a gunbattle. One civilian was killed and one was injured. Eight PKK men surrendered, Mr. Qazzaz said.

In a separate clash in the Zakho region, two civilians and one Peshmerga were killed in the village of Banfa Sunday. Four civilians were wounded. The PKK fighters surrendered but their casualties were not known, he added.

There was no independent confirmation of the fighting, but Iraqi Kurds have warned the PKK to quit the mountainous border region several times in the past. Mr. Qazzaz said the 105-member Kurdish parliament, elected in May, had voted on Sunday to take action against the PKK.

"They have been given ultimatums several times, but they never keep their promises to move out of the area, so parliament has decided they will be kicked out by force," Mr. Qazzaz said.

The PUK and the other main Iraqi Kurdish guerrilla group, the Kurdish Democratic Party (KDP), have accused the PKK of preventing Iraqi Kurds from resettling in border villages.

PKK cross-border attacks have drawn frequent reprisal air-raids by Turkey, where more than 5,000 people have died since the PKK began its war for an independent Kurdistan state in 1984.

Mr. Qazzaz said pressure from Iraqi Kurdish villagers had contributed to the decision to go after the PKK.

"They would have taken action whether the parliament voted or not and we could not let untrained villagers be massacred," he said.

He said all Iraqi Kurdish factions, including the PUK and KDP, were taking part in the drive to quell the PKK. Trained fighters made up about 30 per cent of the 15,000-strong force. The Iraqi Kurds have informed

Turkey and Western countries of the decision to "clean the whole area for good," Mr. Qazzaz said. Asked what would be done with the PKK, he said: "Those killed we will bury. Those wounded we will treat. Those captured we will imprison."

15 killed in Turkey
Fifteen people, including 10 PKK guerrillas and two Turkish soldiers, have been killed in the latest clashes in southeast Turkey, security official said Monday.

Three PKK members and two soldiers were killed in a clash near Dicle town, a statement from the regional governor's office in Diyarbakir said.

In another Sunday clash, Turkish troops killed three PKK rebels who attempted to attack a gendarmerie border post near the southeastern town of Nusaybin.

And in the eastern province of Tunceli, three PKK members were killed on Sunday in a clash. Security forces shot dead a rebel in Kozluk following a guerrilla raid on a state-run petroleum plant on Sunday, the statement said.

It gave no further information about damage to the plant, operated by the Turkish Petroleum Corporation.

A husband and wife were shot dead by unidentified gunmen in Celanpazir town after leaving a wedding feast on Sunday night, local journalists said.

They said another civilian was killed in silvan town on Monday in an attack carried out by unknown gunmen. The victim, Said Isci, was a member of the pro-Kurdish People's Labour Party, they added.

More than 5,000 people have been killed since the PKK began its struggle for an independent Kurdistan state in 1984.

There was no immediate comment from Ankara on the reported clashes in northern Iraq, but a foreign ministry source said Turkey would welcome any attempt to curb the PKK.

"Turkey has always made clear to the Iraqi Kurdish leaders that it expects them to fill the power vacuum in northern Iraq," a senior Foreign Ministry source said.

"We have told them Turkey's cross-border operations into northern Iraq, which sometimes regrettably harm Iraqi civilians, would not be necessary if the Iraqi Kurds had firmer control in their zone," the source said.

Iraqi Kurdish groups have complained that several of Turkey's cross-border air raids aimed at the PKK have killed or wounded Iraqi Kurdish civilians and damaged villages.

Sudan says food, security improved in Juba

KHARTOUM (R) — A senior official in southern Sudan said security had been fully restored in and around the southern city of Juba and the food situation was much improved.

The deputy governor of Equatoria state Angelo Boda told state television Sunday evening that following a determined campaign by government forces, rebel forces were nowhere to be seen within a 35 kilometres radius of the city.

Juba, on the White Nile, has seen heavy fighting between government forces and the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA). The SPLA, fighting to end what it sees as domination by the Muslim, Arabised north of the mainly Christian and animist south, says its forces are on the doorstep of Juba.

The United Nations suspended aid operations in the eastern Equatoria region last week after three aid workers and a journalist were killed.

A U.N. report obtained by Reuters in Nairobi Sunday said they had not died in crossfire as the SPLA had claimed and accused the rebels of trying to mislead the United Nations.

More than half of Juba's 400,000 inhabitants have fled to the town to escape fighting elsewhere. Mr. Boda said residents who had sought shelter in church compounds and mosques to escape SPLA shells had returned to their homes.

He said aid and essential supplies were continuing to flow into Juba driving down prices by at least 50 per cent. The price of a bag of flour, for example, had fallen from 11,000 Sudanese pounds (\$110) to 6,000 pounds (\$60). A carton of soap powder had halved in price to 1,500 pounds (\$15).

Mr. Boda said his government was setting up "peace villages" to house displaced families in the areas outside Juba.

Some 20,000 families have already been resettled at Terkaka, 75 kilometres north of Juba, which government troops recaptured from the SPLA in April.

Another 21,000 families are to be resettled in Gumba, just south of Juba, and more in Liria, 65 kilometres southeast of Juba, which was retaken from the SPLA in May.

The U.S. State Department and London-based human rights organisation Amnesty International have spoken of widespread killing and abuse of civilians by government forces in the town.

The mission would also propose measures to reduce the budget deficit and stabilise the value of the Sudanese pound.

"The rationale is to put the reconstruction process on a sound footing, which in turn could attract private capital for reconstruction," the weekly said.

The Lebanese government is in desperate need of foreign financial aid for reconstruction in the wake of the civil war that wreaked \$25 billion worth of damage.

The Lebanese pound, once the soundest currency in the Middle East, which rated 2.5 to the dollar before the war, is now selling for 1,700 to the dollar.

Prospects for attracting foreign aid and investment improved earlier this year following the release of the last Western hostages held in the country by extremists.

The "European" Community (EC) commission announced in June that the release of the last two hostages, two Germans, qualified Lebanon for 41 million ECUs (\$53.3 million) in grants and 122 million ECUs (\$158.6 million) in low interest development loans from the European Investment Bank, the EC's long-term lending agency.

different categories; and helping the private sector economy recover.

Kuwaitis also want their constitution protected in everything from keeping the parliament to right of assembly, but not at the cost of provoking a fight between the ruling Al Sabah family and parliament.

Arafat
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attend the session, Mr. Bernard replied, "the question is still under study."

Syria has refused to take part in multilateral talks unless there is substantial movement in its bilateral talks with Israel.

Mr. Dumas returned from this weekend trip "reasonably optimistic" and convinced that each side "wants to move in the direction of peace," Mr. Bernard said.

While in Israel Sunday, Mr. Dumas announced that president Francois Mitterrand would visit Israel in late November.

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Former gunmen training to be Somali soldiers

By Edith M. Lederer
The Associated Press

BAIDOA — Last week, Salal Ali Omar was one of thousands of gunmen terrorising this city teeming with starving refugees who scavenge for food. Today, he is training to be a police officer.

The 25-year-old Omar and dozens of other gunmen have been recruited, along with former soldiers and policemen, for the security forces being formed by supporters of Somalia's main warlord, Mohammed Farah Aided.

"What I was doing began to sadden me," said Mr. Omar. "So I decided to join the police force, to try to help settle the security situation."

Rifle-toting gunmen — some free-lance and some part of clan-based militias — are the de facto rulers of Baidoa, a city of more than 80,000 where 350 people are dying every day from starvation and disease.

But political backers of General Aided say the days of anarchy are numbered. "In two weeks, we will clean the town," said Abdi Warsame Isak, vice chairman of the four-party Somali National Alliance headed by Gen. Aided.

"First we will declare that nobody can carry a gun in the town. After that, we will take them by force," he said. "Our goal is to ensure the security of the region and return it to normality."

Similar programmes will be carried out in 11 regions in southern Somalia that the alliance controls, including the capital, Mogadishu, he said.

Gen. Aided said earlier this month that he wants to form a 6,000-strong police force and a security force to wrest control from the gunmen.

Mr. Isak admits it will be difficult to get the gunmen to turn in their weapons. Many foreign relief workers and political observers believe it will be impossible.

Convincing the gunmen will be hard because they can see any reason to give up their guns for food or money and then become victims of those who keep their guns," said a U.N. official, speaking on condition of anonymity.

In March 1991, the police chief in Baidoa decided to disarm gun-toting teenagers but stopped after 19 of his officers were killed. Gunmen have since roamed the streets, looting food destined for the poor, hungry and unarmed.

Last week, 12 Somalis were killed and 45 wounded when two politically allied clans fought over distribution

of 50 tonnes of food from the U.N. World Food Programme, said Rhodri Wynn-Pope of the humanitarian agency Care, which was responsible for the convoy that delivered it to Baidoa.

The death rate in Baidoa is rising, said President George Bush's special coordinator for Somalia relief, Andrew Natsios.

He said deteriorating security and an upsurge in clan warfare are preventing enough food from being delivered by road.

Mr. Isak said the gunmen will be screened: Those who can take orders will be trained as policemen or quasi-soldiers, others will be sent to technical schools which are being established.

"Those found with weapons will be captured and sentenced," he said.

At the looted presidential residence on Baidoa's outskirts, about 150 former soldiers and ex-gunmen have been training for about three weeks. Former army Major Abdullahi Diriye Hassan, 40, estimates it will take about three months to train them.

Maj. Hassan ordered the recruits to stand at attention. They formed reasonably straight lines, holding a wide assortment of rifles and carbines.

At the wrecked police compound in the centre of town, about 120 police recruits formed a very ragged line when ordered to stand at attention.

Their commander, former police Major Mohammed Jimale Osoble, 40, said part of the force is already guarding food warehouses and relief agency offices.

Abdullahi Shek Elme, 50, a 30-year police veteran who had a bandolier of bullets hanging round his chest, said he had no objection to incorporating gunmen into the force.

"Those who we think are not good will be detained or arrested," he said.

It was impossible to distinguish the police and military recruits from the gunmen on the streets. Some wore military-style clothes, others T-shirts, many marched in rubber flip-flops.

Mr. Isak said the alliance has asked the U.N. for uniforms but has not received any. So when the new forces go on duty, they will have only patches on their clothing to show their affiliation.

Mr. Omar, his hand resting casually on his Thompson sub-machine gun, said he believes it is possible to get the gunmen he left just five days ago to disarm and do something legitimate.

"How long might it take? God knows," he said, laughing. "We shall do our best."

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Iraq ready to pay war reparations

(Continued from page 1)
on the black market from 23 to the dollar to almost 35.

Mr. Khudayer said the U.N. resolution "is another link in the chain of unfair Security Council resolutions against Iraq... aimed at starving Iraq's people and preventing them from using their own funds to obtain food, medicine, and other humanitarian needs."

He said Iraq "is determined to press for the adoption of a plan it submitted to the U.N. secretary general, which calls for Iraq to export \$4,000 million of oil over a six-month period, renewable for

an additional six months, to pay for food, medicine, and other needs of the Iraqi people."

The Iraqi national congress, a coalition of groups opposed to the government of Saddam Hussein, welcomed the Security Council vote.

The London-based organization said: "These assets are the property of the Iraqi people and the congress is pleased that they will finally be used for their benefit."

It said humanitarian efforts should take priority and that "aid must be distributed without the involvement of the current regime."

No end in sight for Gulf dispute

(Continued from page 1)
against it in its row with the U.S. over three strategic Gulf islands.

The official Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) said Monday Kuwait was sending Foreign Minister Under-Secretary Sulaiman Majed Al Shaheen to Saudi Arabia to resume Kuwait efforts

contain the Saudi-Qatar dispute.

It said Sheikh Saad talked on the telephone Sunday with the Emir of Qatar, Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al Thani and Prince Abdullah, the Saudi crown prince.

Kuwaitis vote with high hopes

(Continued from page 1)
ballot form and cast votes in private for two candidates. Their cards were then stamped to show they had voted.

Candidate Ali Ahmad Al Baghli said he had stopped looking at the U.S. army Patriot missile battery on constant vigil against possible attack by Iraq since the start of the elections.

"I feel safe and secure in the presence of democracy... there is no better protection," he said.

Political parties are banned, and candidates fearful of taking firm positions that might alienate even one voter when it takes about 700 to win a seat.

Seven political groups ranging from Western-educated technocrats to businessmen to Muslim fundamentalists fielded candidates. Most ran as independents.

But after security the central concerns were rebuilding Kuwait's \$80 billion overseas nest egg, which dropped by half during the war; ending the classification of citizens into a host of

different categories; and helping the private sector economy recover.

Kuwaitis also want their constitution protected in everything from keeping the parliament to right of assembly, but not at the cost of provoking a fight between the ruling Al Sabah family and parliament.

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Algeria to let foreign stake in oilfields

NICOSIA (R) — Algeria will let Western firms acquire a stake in some of its oilfields, Energy Minister Hacem Mefti said in an interview published Monday.

Algeria had earlier said foreign oil companies willing to invest in Algeria could take a proportion of the oil produced from oilfields they help develop. Mr. Mefti explained the change of policy in an interview published by the Middle East Economic Survey (MEES). Foreign firms "do not want to be bound by long-term commitments within a framework which is too narrow," he said.

The previous policy would have offered production sharing to firms taking part in enhanced recovery schemes to improve oil production in 10 Algerian oilfields. Mr. Mefti said Algeria now favoured a return to the situation immediately after the oil industry was nationalised in 1971.

Foreign firms could then own up to 49 per cent of oil ventures. "Now, if it is convenient to our prospective partners, we can revert to this idea and offer them the option of entering into partnership with us by taking equity shares in some oilfields," Mr. Mefti said.

MEES said the production enhancement schemes are expected to increase oil output initially by 25 per cent and ultimately by up to 50 per cent. The first round of bidding for projects covers 10 oilfields, including the giant Hassi Messaoud field. It has attracted offers from 15 companies. Mr. Mefti said Algeria hoped to conclude the first agreements before the end of the year.

Hizbollah leader meets with Khamenei

NICOSIA (AP) — The leader of Lebanon's Shiite Muslim fundamentalist Hizbollah movement met Monday with Iran's spiritual leader, the official Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) said. The agency said Sheikh Hassan Nasrallah stressed the necessity of "liberating" the Israeli-occupied territories, during his meeting with Ayatollah Ali Khamenei in Tehran. Sheikh

Germany to boost youth exchanges with Israel

BONN (R) — Bonn plans to expand its youth exchanges with Israel to help combat racism among teenagers in eastern Germany, Minister for Women and Youth Affairs Angela Merkel said Monday.

Ms. Merkel told visiting Israeli Education Minister Shulamit Aloni that teenagers in Eastern Germany, where contact with Israel was almost impossible during the communist era, were very insecure about discussing Germany's Nazi past. Discussing the past has played an important role in previous exchanges between Israeli and West German youths and should help easterners deal with the issue, she said.

A wave of racist violence in eastern Germany, which began in August as a protest against foreigners seeking asylum in Rostock, has turned anti-Semitic in recent weeks with attacks on Holocaust memorials. "In interviews for a study on German-Israeli youth exchanges, young Germans confirmed they were convinced their experiences with Israel and personal meetings with young Israelis had immunised them against racism," Ms. Merkel said, according to a statement from her ministry.

Israel already ranks third — after France and Poland — in the list of countries with which Germany has extensive youth exchanges aimed at overcoming the prejudices of the past. The ministry statement said Israel was "a blank page" for most East Germans because they were so cut off from it during 40 years of communism.

"These youths show considerable insecurity about the Nazi past, which plays an important role in German-Israeli youth exchanges," it said. "At the same time, young people from Israel can get to know eastern Germany and experience personal contacts there."

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

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Health workers protest violation of wage deals

AMMAN (J.T.) — The General Union of Jordanian Workers employed by the health services is lodging a complaint with the Labour Ministry about violations of agreements it had signed with pharmacies operating in the country.

Salem Hijazeen, the union's president, was quoted by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, Monday as saying that the drug stores have repeatedly violated agreements reached with the union about a raise in workers' salaries and improving work conditions.

Mr. Hijazeen, who made the statement following a general board meeting, Monday said that he would be submitting the complaint to the Ministry of Labour, demanding that agreements be honoured.

He added that the union reached the agreements with the pharmacies last May with the purpose of improving the work and living conditions of the workers.

In a separate development, the nurses union has also raised complaints to the Ministry of Labour. Mr. Nazih Al Bezour, the union president, said that he was in contact with the Ministries of Labour and Health over the employment of non-Jordanian nurses in private hospitals.

He said, in a statement to the Al Ra'i and the Jordan Times, that private hospitals

have recently increased their employment of nurses from China, Romania and India, while 75 per cent of graduates from nursing colleges in the Kingdom are still unemployed.

Mr. Bezour, accompanied by several male and female nurses from his union, visited the newspaper offices and said that the private hospitals seem to be giving priority to foreign nurses over local nurses and paying them three times the salaries of Jordanian nurses.

They claimed that the foreign nurses were not as qualified as the Jordanian nurses who graduate from nursing colleges at the University of Jordan and the Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST).

The nursing union told the Ministry of Labour that the growing number of unemployed nurses is also increasing due to Jordanian expatriate nurses returning from the Gulf states.

Mr. Bezour said that the non-Jordanian nurses, each receive up to \$300 in monthly salary in addition to return air fare and accommodation. He pointed out that the employment of Jordanian nurses would not require such exorbitant fees.

Dr. Tawfiq Labani, director of medical affairs at the Ministry of Health, backed the union's position but said the ministry had no previous knowledge of this situation.

Unsafe buildings blamed on sloppy construction

AMMAN (Petra) — The Royal Scientific Society (RSS) Monday warned the public against overlooking construction specifications, saying that damage incurred by many buildings in the Kingdom in the last winter season revealed widespread negligence of these codes.

Seifuddin Maath, head of the Building Research Centre (BRC) at the RSS, said that many buildings constructed in the 1970s did not conform to the RSS's building code and have since shown signs of decay as a result of last year's harsh winter which witnessed snow storms throughout the Kingdom.

The RSS called on the public to insist that contractors conduct tests on the soil, before construction, and to check on the materials to be used, such as sand, aggregate cement, steel rods used for the reinforced concrete, and water and central heating materials.

Inspection tours by BRC teams to a number of buildings and installations throughout the Kingdom have proven that many of them had constructional defects detrimental to their owners.



PRINCESS BASMA OPENS CHARITY BAZAAR: Her Royal Highness Princess Basma, Monday opened at the Al Hussein Youth Centre a charity bazaar organised by the diplomatic missions in Jordan, for the benefit of the Um Al Hussein Orphanage. The Princess was standing in for Her Majesty Queen Zela, the Queen Mother. Fifteen diplomatic missions took part in the bazaar which displayed embroidered, handcrafts, copper glass and silver ware, traditional goods, scent clothes and food stuffs. The displayed items came from the embassies of France, Iraq, Japan, the U.S., China, Lebanon, Morocco, South Korea, Egypt, Indonesia, Spain, Turkey, Italy, Tunisia and Sudan. French Ambassador Denis Bouchard spoke on behalf of the diplomatic corps and pledged the foreign community's continued support for the orphanage which, he said, was offering humanitarian services to the orphaned children in Jordan. The Queen Mother is the Honorary President of the Orphanage Board and continually provides it with support and donations. The orphanage, established in the early 1960s, offers 135 children basic education and vocational training together with accommodation, food and clothes as well as social and health services. Her Royal Highness Princess Aishah Bint Al Hussein and Princess Rahmah Bint Al Hassan were among the present.

Sharif Zeid pledges support for cash-strapped University Hospital, but urges staff to improve service

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker has pledged to help the University of Jordan overcome its severe financial problems which have contributed to the deterioration of health-services offered to its public.

During an unannounced visit to the hospital Monday, the prime minister promised to help the hospital meet the needs "as soon as possible," but urged its staff to exert their "best efforts to raise the standards of services," Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported.

An official hospital source told the Jordan Times that the prime minister toured the hospital and was briefed on the shortages it faces and the need for modernisation.

The hospital, now 23 years old, faces a recurrent annual deficit in its budget, estimated at JD 1.5 million, which hampers its services, said the official.

In its present state, the hospital lags behind other modern hospitals in the country despite its prestigious reputation. The prime minister was given a list of requests which included the installation of modern equipment similar to those in the Al Hussein Medical Centre.



Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker Monday visits the University of Jordan Hospital and hears pleas for more cash (Petra photo)

The hospital's annual budget for 1992 is JD 13 million but this is not even sufficient to meet the services and treatment offered," said the official. Dr. Samih Abdul Ragheh, the Hospital Director, presented the prime minister with the following demands: — To raise the Social Security Corporation (SSC) allocations made to the hospital for the treatment of employees and their dependents from the present JD

2.5 million p.a. to at least JD 6.4 million. — Special allocations to the hospital from the government's annual budget for cancer and kidney patients who are offered treatment free of charge. — More funds for the purchase of medicines and medical equipment. — Allocations to help the hospital carry out modernisation of its facilities in accordance with a well-defined plan.

Meeting discusses means of improving horticulture

AMMAN (Petra) — Delegates from 11 Arab countries gathered in Amman Monday for a four-day conference entitled, "Preparation and Handling of Horticultural Products," organised by the Arab Organisation for Agricultural Development (AOAD).

According to the Amman-based AOAD Regional Office Director Abdul Hamid Al Kayed, six main working papers will be reviewed by the delegates along with 25 research works dealing with horticultural products, diseases affecting the produce, preparation of products of fruits and vegetables for the market and other issues.

Dr. Kayed said that the 11 delegates are also presenting papers outlining their countries' experience in horticultural production and marketing of products.

Addressing the opening session at the Jerusalem Hotel in Amman, Agriculture Minister Fayez Khasawneh said that the Arab World's food production falls far short of the required level. Most of the Arab world's production of fruits and vegetables is easily perishable due to storage reasons or insects and fungi diseases that reduce the nutritional value of the product or destroy it altogether, he said.

The minister called on Arab states to exchange expertise and results of experiments and research work in horticultural products.

AOAD Director General Hassan Fahmi Jumaas outlined to the meeting the organisation's current efforts aimed at enabling the Arab World attain food security.

Polish firm assists new foundry

AMMAN (J.T.) — A Polish company, Metal Export, plans to build a foundry for the Arab Industrial Engineering Company (AIEC) at the Al Hassan Industrial City in Irbid at the cost of JD 17 million, according to an agreement signed in Amman Monday.

The AIEC Board Chairman Mutazz Al Bilbeisi told the Jordan Times that the Polish firm will provide technical assistance and equipment for the foundry which will refine scrap iron found in abundance in Jordan as well as other local raw materials.

A statement which followed the signing ceremony said that the project is designed to produce up to 2800 tonnes of cast iron and steel that will resist corrosion and heat to meet the needs of local industrial firms.

The project is expected to create 265 jobs for engineers and technicians.

As well as using local primary and raw materials it will save the country an expensive hard currency that would otherwise be spent on imports.

Ministry approves plans for sports city in Zarqa

ZARQA (Petra) — Representatives of the youth sector in the Zarqa Governorate Monday voiced approval of the Ministry of Youth's decision to establish a sports city in the Zarqa region.

Zarqa's youth clubs said that the Zarqa region, inhabited by more than 750,000 people who are mostly young citizens, has desperately needed sports facilities. Minister of Youth, Saleh Irshaidat, said that his ministry has finalised a comprehensive

plan to promote sports throughout in Jordan and plans to spend JD 29 million on the project. Al Ra'i Arabic daily said Monday the Ministry will carry out three main sports stadiums, one in eastern Amman, the second in Zarqa and the third in the southern regions between 1992 and 1997.

The minister said that sports facilities, will also eventually set up in Mafraq, Salt, Karak, Maan and Tafleeh to benefit the local sports clubs.

Arabiyat sues RCC director for slander

By Sa'eda Kilani Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament Abdul Latif Arabiyat is suing the director of the Royal Cultural Centre (RCC) for alleged slander.

Dr. Arabiyat last week filed a case at the prosecutor general's office in protest to a letter written by RCC's director Iyad Qattan, which, the alleges, undermines the dignity of the Lower House and its members.

Dr. Arabiyat was referring to a letter sent by Mr. Qattan to the House on August 20 following the arrest of a number of Jordanian citizens, who protested the indictment of former minister Mahmoud Al Hawamdeh.

The citizens, most of them from the southern city of Tafleeh, Mr. Hawamdeh's hometown, were charged with slandering the House.

Dr. Arabiyat claims that Mr. Qattan's letter infringed upon the dignity of the House and aimed at degrading its reputation. In an interview with the Jordan Times

Monday, Dr. Arabiyat pointed to the use of words such as "intelligence means and terrorist acts" in connection with the Parliament. In his letter, Mr. Qattan asked, "does the way in which citizens (who protested Mr. Hawamdeh's indictment) were referred (to court) mean that the House is following a selective, intelligence methods that consequently lead to terrorising the public?" Mr. Qattan denies that he is guilty of slander.

"We have been working hard for over 20 years to achieve democracy in Jordan. Then those whom we have elected turn against us. We have the right to protest if we observe any faulty action by Parliament which should come to accept such criticism," he told the Jordan Times. In his letter, Mr. Qattan wrote that "some deputies have already protested against the way the parliament has handled the corruption cases. Why did the Parliament itself then not file any case of slander against them? This new system of dictatorial tactics by Parliament will consequently pro-



Abdul Latif Arabiyat

Iyad Qattan

vent the media from holding it accountable," he claimed. "Citizens too will be afraid to express their opinions of the deputies' conduct," he said. Dr. Arabiyat said that all means of protest are openly accepted by Parliament as long as they don't amount to slander. "We have a duty towards our institution: That is to protect it from such kinds of allegations." Resorting to judicial system is the most civilised way of handling such cases, he said. Mr. Qattan protested Dr. Arabiyat's decision to sue him, saying that "my letter aimed at protesting against the reference of simply citizens to court for the sole reason of criticism. 'Now, they are trying to sue me for the same purpose."

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

Prime minister receives message from Attas

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker Monday received a message from his Yemeni counterpart Haidar Abu Bakr Al Attas. The message was delivered to Sharif Zeid by Yemen's Ambassador in Jordan Ali Abdullah Abu Lahoum. In his message, Mr. Attas sought the Jordanian government's approval to provide Aden hospital with medical, administrative and technical cadres to help the management in the operation of the hospital. Mr. Attas voiced hope for further bolstering of the "brotherly relations."

Acting minister of health named

AMMAN (Petra) — A Royal Decree was issued Monday appointing Labour Minister Abdul Karim Al Kabarti acting Minister of Health during the absence of Dr. Aref Bataineh.

Kabarti meets Egyptian, Tunisian envoys

AMMAN (Petra) — Labour Minister Abdul Karim Al Kabarti Monday discussed with the Egyptian Ambassador to Jordan Wajih Hamdi measures taken by the ministry to organise Egyptian labour in Jordan in line with an agreement concluded between both countries. Mr. Hamdi voiced satisfaction with the measures taken by the Labour Ministry and approval of the methods undertaken in dealing with the issue.

Minister to leave for Canada

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Social Development Amin Mashagbeh Tuesday leaves for Canada to take part in a meeting for ministers of social affairs and development due to open in the Canadian capital Thursday. The two-day meeting will assess the achievements of the International Decade for the Disabled and will formulate plans for future international cooperation.

Traffic symposium planned

AMMAN (Petra) — Under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, a traffic symposium will be held Sunday at the Orthodox Club. The symposium, organised by the Jordanian Society for the Prevention of Road Accidents in cooperation with the Goethe Institute, will discuss five working papers on traffic issues. An exhibition, entitled "The car: The Nightmare" will also be held. The exhibition runs until Oct. 16.

Student athletes from Germany visit U.J.

AMMAN (Petra) — A sport student delegation from Germany's Kiel University Monday visited the University of Jordan (U.J.) and met with Deputy Dean of Student Affairs Sari Hamdan and the Director of the Sport Activities Department Masaz Khair. The delegation was briefed on the sports programmes offered by the university and was given a tour of the sport facilities available.

Marriott official visits Amman

AMMAN — The Marriott Regional Vice President of Central Europe, Middle East and Africa, Karl Kilburg, is currently on a visit to Amman as part of a tour to all hotels in the region. Accompanying Mr. Kilburg on the visit are the Area Vice President for the Middle East and Regional Director of Operations.

After Amman, they will go on to Saudi Arabia, Athens and Dubai where a Marriott hotel will open in 1993.

Mr. Kilburg is a 30-year veteran with Marriott hotels. Prior to his current post, Mr. Kilburg was Regional Vice President of the New York areas covering New York, Bermuda and Barbados.

APARTMENT FOR RENT (FURNISHED OR UNFURNISHED)
Ground floor with private entrance and garage in two floor private building located in West Shmeisani consists of 3 bedrooms including master, sitting, dining & living room (shape L). Kitchen with full utensil. Separate central heating, telephone. Total area 250m². Furniture is new.
For more details, please contact 669753, after 2 p.m.

unicef
VACANCY NOTICE FOR PROGRAMME ASSISTANT (INFO RETRIEVAL) WITH UNICEF
The Regional Office of UNICEF is seeking to employ a PROGRAMME ASSISTANT (INFORMATION RETRIEVAL).
Requirements:
- Secondary Education with University level courses in Library Science or its equivalent in work experience.
- Advanced training in information retrieval, particularly micro-computer systems and electronic mail.
- Fluency in written and spoken English and Arabic. (French an asset).
- 5-7 years experience in relative work.
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THE ARAB REPUBLIC OF EGYPT
MINISTRY OF ELECTRICITY AND ENERGY
EGYPTIAN ELECTRICITY AUTHORITY

THE HASHEMITE KINGDOM OF JORDAN
MINISTRY OF ENERGY AND MINERAL RESOURCES
JORDAN ELECTRICITY AUTHORITY

EGYPTIAN ELECTRICITY AUTHORITY/JORDAN ELECTRICITY AUTHORITY
ELECTRICAL INTERCONNECTION PROJECT BETWEEN EGYPT AND JORDAN

ADVERTISEMENT
FOR ISSUE OF TENDERS FOR GULF OF AQABA SUBMARINE CABLE CROSSING

Egyptian Electricity Authority and Jordan Electricity Authority declare that the Arab Republic of Egypt and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan obtained a loan from the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development for financing of the project for interconnection of their electrical networks and the Egyptian Electricity Authority and Jordan Electricity Authority intend to use part of this loan for financing the supply and installation of the 400 kv Gulf of Aqaba submarine cable crossing for which this advertisement is made for the issuance of the tender documents which include:

Tender No. JE 01/90 including the following:
— Provide the marine and land survey services of the Gulf of Aqaba and determine the suitable cables route across the Gulf of Aqaba from Taba Substation in Egypt to the cable terminal station south of Aqaba in Jordan.
— Engineering and Design, CIF delivery, installation and site commissioning of four 400 kv single conductor cables, complete with accessories, joints and terminations and spare repair cable.

One original copy of the tender is to be submitted to each the Egyptian Electricity Authority and Jordan Electricity Authority with two copies to the Consultant in two envelopes: One envelope for the Technical Offer and the other for the Financial Offer and to be submitted at the same time. The Financial Offer should include a Bid Bond not less than 2 per cent of the total tender price. Submission of tenders should be not later than 12 o'clock noon Amman time and its equal time in Cairo on February 1st, 1993.

Tender Document can be obtained from the offices of Egyptian Electricity Authority or the offices of Jordan Electricity Authority against a receipt for payment or an acceptable cheque for value of US\$2,500 as follows:

- For Egyptian Electricity Authority to their Account No. 880/90/14 in Egyptian National Bank main branch and to accompany the cheque with a purchase order-original stamped and two copies in the name of the Engineer-General Manager of the Central Purchasing in the building of the Ministry of Electricity and Energy.
- For Jordan Electricity Authority by cash payment in its Headquarters or a certified cheque in the name of Jordan Electricity Authority and submission of purchase order accompanied by a copy of the receipt for payment. The purchase order should clearly include the Bidder's name, his local agent and address, telex, fax and telephone number.

In case the tenderer requires the tender documents to be sent to him by mail, the express airmail cost will be added.

Both offers (Technical & Financial) for this tender will be opened at 12 o'clock noon Amman time and its equal time in Cairo on February 1st, 1993 in both Cairo and Amman. The tenders should be valid for 150 days from date of opening the tender.

Tenderer is requested to submit any question in writing or by cable to reach the Egyptian Electricity Authority and Jordan Electricity Authority, not later than one month before the closing date and a pre-tender meeting to clarify all queries regarding this tender will be held in the Headquarters of Egyptian Electricity Authority at a time to be notified later.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975

الصحف الأردنية المستقلة المنشورة بالإنجليزية من مؤسسة الصحافة الأردنية

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When peace isn't right

UP UNTIL recently, the universally accepted key word for the peace process in the Middle East had been to trade "land for peace." Now that formula has been replaced by the more meaningful slogan of total peace for total Israeli withdrawal from Arab territories. This new headline for peace in the region has gained currency after the Syrian leadership reportedly offered Israel peace with all trimmings in return for Israeli commitment to withdraw from all the Arab territories occupied by Israel during the 1967 war.

Damascus' offer, told or reiterated to visiting French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas Sunday, comes apparently in response to Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's insistence on full peace terms with Syria before his government entertains making territorial concessions on the Golan Heights. Now the ball is back in Israel's court and Rabin would find it formidably difficult to reciprocate the latest Syrian offer with swift positive action. But as the stakes for peace reach new highs, Israel cannot rebuff with any kind of ease all fair and challenging Arab moves.

Syrian President Hafez Assad deserves credit for the way he has been playing his negotiating cards. He is outbidding Rabin in some of the latter's favourite games and in the process he may also be changing rules for negotiations.

It is a fact that Syria carries heavy regional weight and may influence events on the Palestinian front as well when the moment of truth arrives. As such the latest developments in Syrian-Israeli relations are therefore poised to make the seventh round of peace talks more critical and decisive. There could be rapid movement on that important front, which in turn might serve as a locomotive pulling along with it the other carts. This seems to be Syria's half-time gambit, and if it succeeds, elusive peace in the Middle East could indeed turn to be a more realistic dream after all.

The Israeli prime minister may still want to play the card of a summit between him and the Syrian president as a ploy to derail the latest Syrian move. Rabin has actually been making a lot of noise about the "need" for a high-level meeting that would push forward the stalled talks. However, he knows only too well that such an idea is not on the cards at this stage. By insisting on it now, Rabin and his government may push the Syrian side up against a wall. There is no need for such brinkmanship if peace, total peace, is what is on the minds of the Israeli leadership. Besides, Syria is right in saying that summitry will undermine the framework of the ongoing negotiations.

The normalisation of relations between the two sides — if it happens at all — needs more time than being hoped for and expected by Israel. Too much insistence on speed in that direction may prove counterproductive, at least for now.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA'I Arabic daily bitterly criticised the U.N. Security Council for its decision to seize Iraqi oil funds, describing this move as a treacherous act and a violation of the international legitimacy. The oil funds are supposed to buy milk for Iraqi children and medicine for the Iraqi sick people, said the paper. This act represents the most atrocious form of crimes since it is stealing of poor people's food, and a means of murdering the civil population of a country, the paper said. The United States claims that it is seizing Iraqi assets in order to spend on the United Nations operations in Iraq but we ask Washington why it does not settle its own dues to the world organisation, asked the paper. It expressed regret that all the other 14 Security Council members, including China, have succumbed to the will of the United States and accepted the bribery of the colonial powers, thus agreeing to an atrocious act against the civilian population of Iraq. The paper said that while China's delegate denounced the resolution, he lacked the courage to vote against it during the session. The paper said that the United States is thus transforming the great country of China, with its millions of people, into a "paper tiger" lacking power and the will to confront the desires of the colonial nations.

AL DUSTOUR daily commented on the tour of Arab states and Israel by French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas, noting that it was to underline the French role in the Middle East region and its various issues. In principle, we have nothing to say against such a visit as we hope that it would pave the way for a positive European role to bring to an end the Arab-Israeli conflict, said the daily. But one cannot help expressing doubt about the meaning of the visit at this particular time and to draw question marks about many matters that remain unanswered, the paper noted. One of these questions is why Mr. Dumas' visit did not include all those countries involved in the peace process, the paper said. We are afraid that Mr. Dumas' visit was to encourage separate and partial solutions between the Arabs and Israel, thus serving the Israeli cause and falling in line with Tel Aviv's policies, the paper continued. The French foreign ministry should have declared in advance the real purpose of Mr. Dumas' visit to the region so as to allay Arab fears about any secret endeavours, the paper demanded. It said that whatever the purposes of the visit, the Arab parties hope that Paris will retain its traditional and principled stand with regard to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Syria has repeatedly affirmed its adherence to U.N. Security Council resolutions 242 and 338 and its support for the exchange of land for peace on all Arab fronts as part of a comprehensive settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict. If Syria is to be a party to such a settlement, then this must of necessity include the Golan Heights, seized by Israel in the 1967 war and effectively annexed in 1981, a move which the U.N. Security Council has declared to be "null and void and without international legal effect" (Resolution 497, 1981).

Israel refuses to seriously discuss the land component of the land-for-peace formula with respect to Syria. The Knesset affirmed this rejection through its recent passage of a resolution declaring that the Golan should be non-negotiable. There are currently 12,000 Israeli settlers living in the Golan and their numbers have been increasing at an accelerated pace, due to the zeal of the Likud government's housing minister, Ariel Sharon. Mr. Sharon went so far as to establish a new Israeli settlement, Kela, in the Golan the very day after the Madrid conference, as if to ridicule the entire peace process.

Israel's arguments in defence of its continued occupation of the Golan are largely based on the following assumptions:

1. Israeli farmers in the Hula valley were the victims of constant "unprovoked" Syrian shelling from the Golan Heights prior to the 1967 war;
2. Israel seized the Golan in a "defensive" war;
3. The extra territory is essential to Israeli security.

The "unprovoked" attacks

The major point of contention along the Syrian-Israeli border which obtained before the 1967 war arose from Israel's illegal assertion of sovereignty over the entirety of the demilitarised zone created as a result of the 1949 armistice. According to the U.N. Truce Supervision Organisation (UNTSO) and the chairman of the Mixed Armistice Commission (MAC), which were responsible for investigating and reporting on border incidents, many such resulted from the "progressive extension of Israeli cultivation towards the east" in the demilitarised zone. This involved repeated encroachments onto disputed and Arab-owned lands in violation of the rules of the armistice agreement.

Often backed by armed Israeli units illegally brought into the zone, Israeli settlers repeatedly moved their tractors onto Arab-owned lands which they began to cultivate, despite warnings by the MAC chairman that their actions

constituted a violation of the armistice and would, in addition, provoke a strong Arab reaction. Indeed, the Arabs sitting atop the Golan, now bitter refugees who could see their confiscated lands below being ploughed by intruders in plain view, vented their anger and frustration by firing at the tractors. Israel consistently interfered with the movements of the U.N. observers whose job it was to prevent Israeli settlers from forcibly encroaching on Arab lands.

Beginning in 1951 armed Israeli units entered a number of Arab villages in the zone, destroyed Arab houses and other civilian property and forced hundreds of residents to flee. Israel initially ignored UNTSO protests and refused to allow the return of the residents, but after Security Council Resolution 93 was passed calling on it to do so, it finally relented, although it refused to pay the residents the stipulated compensation for the property it destroyed.

Other provocations by Israel included illegally moving heavy equipment into the zone and carrying out its various irrigation and other projects on Arab-owned lands without consulting or even giving proper warning to the U.N. observers or the Arab inhabitants who would be affected. In addition, Israel triggered incidents by repeatedly using "armoured landing craft with machine guns and cannons (posing as) police boats" on Lake Tiberias, in order to illegally prohibit Syrian access to the lake.

According to Lieutenant-General E.L. Burns, a former UNTSO chief of staff: "The Israelis claimed sovereignty over the ... zone. They then proceeded, as opportunity offered, to encroach on the specific restrictions, and so eventually to free themselves, on various pretexts, from all of them ... The Israelis in fact exercised almost complete control over the major portion of the ... zone through their frontier police ... This was directly contrary to Article V of the General Armistice Agreement."

On occasion, the Israeli army launched full-scale attacks on villages and military positions on Syrian territory beyond the demilitarised zone. One such raid on December 11, 1955, left 56 Syrians dead, seven wounded and 32 missing. UNTSO called Israel's action completely "unjustified," and shortly thereafter the Security Council passed Resolution 111, condemning Israel's "flagrant violation" of its obligations under the armistice regime.

Another assault of a similar nature mounted by Israeli forces on March 16-17, 1962, against Syrian territory resulted in an exchange of fire that left casualties on both sides. The UNTSO

chief of staff deplored Israel's action as a violation of the armistice, and on April 9, the Security Council unanimously passed Resolution 171, which strongly condemned Israel.

The "defensive" war

Israel's supporters have for 25 years systematically repeated that the Arabs started the 1967 Arab-Israeli war. This piece of flagrant disinformation is intended to legitimise Israel's continued occupation of Arab territory, including the Golan. Israel claims the right to keep the territory it captured as a result of that "defensive" war, so that "the Arabs will not be able to use those territories as a base to attack Israel again." The problem with this argument is that the Israelis themselves started the 1967 war, not with a "pre-emptive strike" as their apologists will say if pressed on the subject, but with designs on Arab land and resources, just as in 1956, when Israel invaded the Egyptian Sinai, and in 1982, when it invaded

well as Syria, for the simple reason that Egypt had signed a treaty of mutual defence with Syria, obligating it to act should Syria be attacked by Israel. Therefore, when on April 7 Israel launched a major attack on Syrian villages using tanks, artillery and warplanes and a senior military official threatened that Israel would occupy Damascus and overthrow the government, Egypt then came under intense Arab pressure to do something to help its besieged ally. On May 14 the Syrians publicised the Israeli declaration and vowed to invoke the defence agreement with Egypt if Israel attacked again. In order to prove that he was serious about his promise to protect Syria, President Nasser asked the U.N. to redeploy its observation forces to new positions, so that Egypt would be prepared to respond quickly should Syria be attacked. Unfortunately U Thant insisted that the UNEF forces would have to stay positioned exactly as they were or withdraw completely. Nor would Israel accept any UNEF contingents on

aggression, but they are in error for two reasons:

1. The Egyptians do not consider the straits to be international waters but rather a part of Egyptian territorial water;
2. Under international law, belligerent countries should not profit from their aggression, yet Israel was profiting because the original prohibition on Israeli shipping in this area was ended only by Israel's unprovoked invasion of the Egyptian Sinai in 1956.

On June 5, 1967, Israel started the third Arab-Israeli war. Four days later, the Israeli army invaded Syria and subjected it to a fierce aerial attack. This action had to be postponed by one day because of the existence of the American communications ship USS Liberty off the Mediterranean coast. According to the "Washington Post," Israeli warplanes attacked and destroyed the American ship "because it would have picked up every word of communication between Israeli army headquarters and Israeli units preparing to invade Syria that very day — June 8. With the Liberty barely afloat, its crew dead (34) and wounded (171) and its electronic spying silenced after the aerial attack, Israel invaded Syria one day later, June 9."

The security reasons

If anyone is insecure militarily, it is Syria, not Israel. Apologists for Israel have been able to turn reality on its head by claiming that Syria currently presents a military threat to Israel, which would be increased to intolerable levels if the Golan were returned. Only where Israel is concerned could such an absurd construction be elevated to the level of reasonable discourse in the American arena and accepted as fact.

The Syrian strategic situation is dubious, if not catastrophic. The economy is struggling and is only superpower supporter, the USSR, its main source of aid, is gone. Unlike the Israelis, the Syrians do not have the capacity to manufacture advanced weaponry or the means to import the quantity and quality of arms necessary to defend themselves, to say nothing of initiating an attack. Nor do they receive upwards of \$4bn military and economic aid each year from a foreign power, including all the latest state-of-the-art technology, as Israel does from the U.S. And according to Seymour Hersh's book, "The Samson Option," Israel now has a nuclear arsenal consisting of at least 300 warheads as well as the delivery system necessary to wipe most Arab capitals off the face of the earth in less than ten minutes. Syria does not have any nuclear weapons; it does not even have

an active nuclear weapons programme. In short, the Syrians hardly have the military strength necessary to deter an Israeli offensive or even to fight a serious defensive war should Israel attack, to say nothing of comprising a strategic threat to Israel's existence. This strategic inequality was made apparent most recently during the Israeli invasion of Lebanon on June 6, 1982, when the Israeli army deliberately engaged Syrian regular units in the Beqaa Valley. By June 10, the Syrian forces had been routed, with most of their warplanes shot down and their entire anti-aircraft system in Lebanon destroyed.

Ever since the end of the Gulf crisis, Israel has been consistently beating the war drums, turning its attention from Iraq to Syria, focussing on the so-called "Syrian threat" and comparing the Syrian president to his Iraqi counterpart, Saddam Hussein. The Israeli press is full of references to "the next war" or "the coming war" with Syria in inevitable terms. They predict a Syrian-Israeli war on the Golan from sometime next year if the current peace negotiations fail. These voices, which are growing louder and louder, are enough to make any Syrian nervous, because on the Golan front Damascus is only 22 miles away from the nearest Israeli occupation outpost, and there are no longer any natural barriers to protect the Syrian capital.

Israel claims it needs to keep the Golan as a "strategic buffer" against the "Syrian threat," but it is apparent that even Israel itself does not believe in the existence of such a threat. This is evidenced by its routine placement of civilian settlements on the edge of its new frontier with Syria, at the end of the so-called "military buffer" which is the Golan, leaving them unprotected in the event of the "Syrian offensive" which Israel is obviously confident cannot possibly take place, given its own military superiority. On the contrary, Syria has every right to worry that Israel will soon seek a buffer for its buffer, in order to protect those civilians, and so on.

It is essential if peace is to prevail in the region that Israel be made to understand the concept of limits. It cannot be allowed to expand every ten or 20 years at Arab expense with no adverse consequences. Under international law, Israel is required to restore the Golan Heights, as well as the other occupied Arab territories, to their original sovereignty.

The writer is director of research at the Council for the National Interest, a Middle East policy organisation based in Washington D.C. The article is reprinted from Middle East International.

The Golan belongs to Syria

By Laura Drake

"Often backed by armed Israeli units illegally brought into the zone. Israeli settlers repeatedly moved their tractors into Arab-owned lands which they began to cultivate, despite warnings by the MAC chairman that their actions constituted a violation of the armistice and would, in addition, provoke a strong Arab reaction. Indeed, the Arabs sitting atop the Golan, now bitter refugees who could see their confiscated lands below being ploughed by intruders in plain view, vented their anger and frustration by firing at the tractors. Israel consistently interfered with the movements of the U.N. observers whose job it was to prevent Israeli settlers from forcibly encroaching on Arab lands."

Lebanon. Starting in 1966, the Israelis escalated their campaign of trying to provoke Syria into war by constantly edging beyond their own borders with their bulldozers, trying to cultivate land inside Syrian territory. Fearing Israeli-style expansionism — the "creation of facts on the ground" — Syria responded with light fire against the Israeli bulldozers whenever they veered over the border. Israel then used the cumulative effect of all such incidents as a pretext for starting a war.

The later pre-1967 war developments included Egypt as

its own territory, claiming this would somehow violate its sovereignty, (although the U.N. presence on Arab soil does not seem to violate Arab sovereignty). Under the circumstances, Nasser was left with no choice but to ask for UNEF's departure. At the same time, he was desperately proclaiming to U Thant and other diplomats that the Arabs were the last people who wanted war.

Impose peace now rather than later

By George Kenney

WASHINGTON — From the first, the Serbs said they planned to strangle Sarajevo. They are patient. Whether Sarajevo withstands in siege or falls, its defenders will strain trust among ethnic communities. Bosnians, Croats and Serbs will turn away from the government; it will become a predominantly Muslim and radicalised entity.

Currently moderate leaders will seek help from Islamic states. Iran and Libya will respond, as will Turkey, which is troubled by what it perceives as its responsibility to Balkan Muslims, and also wishes to use the crisis to provoke Greece in the context of other disputes.

"It may well be that by spring the United States will find itself proposing to lead a force of Western ground troops under U.N. auspices to make peace in former Yugoslavia, and keep the peace in Europe."

If the West fails to intervene soon, Serbian forces will make incremental gains throughout the winter. Fighting in Bosnia will slow in a false lull. In Croatia, Serbs will continue to violate terms for the ceasefire in U.N.-protected areas. Serbian refugees from other regions will move in, non-Serbs will be forced out, often brutally.

Local legal and administrative procedures and political institutions will be modeled increasingly on Serbian standards. Because

the ceasefire agreements do not specify how the U.N.-protected areas are governed, Serbs will be able to claim that they are only defending their "rights."

By spring, the Croatian government concedes that further time in negotiations means more opportunity for Serbia to lock in its gains. Zagreb regroupings. Croatia becomes far stronger than Serbian forces there, although not yet a military match for the entire Serbian army. Zagreb decides to recover territory by force, but waits for an optimal tactical moment.

Croatia appears calm. Bosnia is

quieter, even though Serbs do not control it fully. Western governments move forward with the Geneva talks, still hoping for a settlement despite the winter deaths, the refugee problem and increasingly disconcerting signs of Muslim states' involvement. The West continues to refuse to believe that a military deterrent is necessary.

Belgrade talks while it fights. But sanctions begin to have a big effect on domestic Serbian politics as the economy collapses. Slobodan Milosevic then does what dictators typically do: He turns attention elsewhere — in

this case, to Kosovo. For Serbs, Kosovo is a rallying point. No Serb, whether of the opposition or a Milosevic supporter, would give up the "cradle of Serbian civilisation." Kosovo's 90 per cent Albanian population, however, demands independence. Conflict is inevitable.

Serbian militants in Kosovo are armed and trained; they despise the Muslim Albanians and plan to "ethnically cleanse" the region, to push as many ethnic Albanians as possible into Albania. At Mr. Milosevic's signal, Serbian irregulars attack, backed by the Serbian army and air force.

It is worse than Bosnia. It is a massacre. Kosovo's ethnic Albanians are neither armed nor organised. Serbian forces are relentless, unconcerned about accidental harm to Serbian minorities, since most villages are entirely ethnic Albanian. Indiscriminate shelling and air bombardment kill thousands. Half a million people, about a quarter of the population, flee to Albania. The government of Albania mobilises immediately and goes to war. Macedonia, with a 30-to-40 per cent ethnic Albanian population of its own, decides it has a better chance of survival by

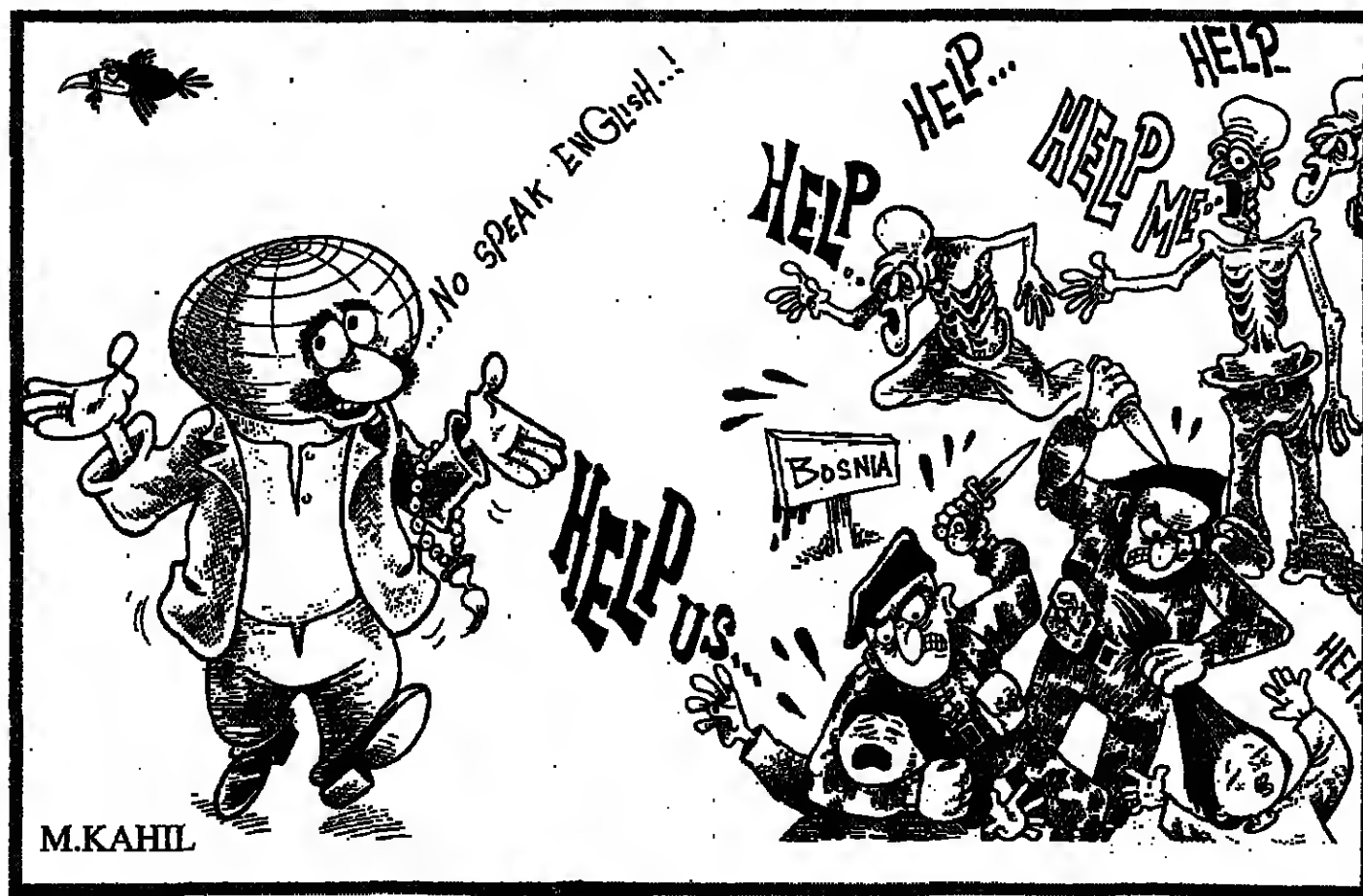
joining Albania. It is too risky for Macedonia to wait and face alone a victorious Serbia.

Each side inflicts heavy casualties; the war bogs down. Albania and Macedonia plead for outside intervention. Muslim states are outraged. Mr. Milosevic made a fatal error by discounting the possibility of their intervention. They openly send "volunteers" and arms. In Kosovo and in Bosnia, Serbian forces, which were never so strong, fall back. Croatia seizes the opportunity to reopen its own front against Belgrade. U.N. forces in the region come under attack from all sides. Greece cannot conceal its ambitions for a slice of Macedonia; it weighs the opportunities and risks of coming to the aid of Serbia. Turkey threatens Greece. NATO, torn by refugee problems and by indecision, flounders. The West cannot stop the conflict from spreading.

This is not a worst case scenario. In my professional judgment, the probability of its taking place is greater than 50-50 — the point being that the United States is unlikely to get for free the option of noninvolvement.

It may well be that by spring the United States will find itself proposing to lead a force of Western ground troops under U.N. auspices to make peace in the former Yugoslavia, and keep the peace in Europe. Should it choose not to preventively deter Serbian aggression when it can? Compare the likely cost of intervention tomorrow with the cost of limited military intervention today, and consider that the cost will keep going up. The problem won't go away.

The writer was the State Department desk officer for Yugoslavia until Aug. 25, when he resigned in protest against U.S. policy. The article is reprinted from the New York Times.



ملا من لا

Pharmacy — entrepreneurship in government

By Izzat R. Dajani

profession in general and existing pharmacy owners in particular.

It may be important to note here that the ministry sees in its latest action a viable means and a concerted effort and attempt at reducing unemployment among pharmacists. As much as we are willing to accept both arguments, we feel that the dispute itself centres around the public-private interface. It is exactly here that entrepreneurial and innovative thinking need to be developed for the eventual benefit of both sectors.

Medicines make up around 25 per cent of total health spending in Jordan. The total public recurrent expenditures in health usually averages just under 3 per cent of GNP (5 per cent including the private sector). It is worth noting in this context that private pharmacies are geographically distributed across the country with more than 50 per cent in Amman. There is a predominance of pharmacists in the private sector where over 90 per cent are em-

ployed. The Jordanian drug bill for 1988, calculated by the price to the public, was JD 30 million, of which JD 22 million was channelled through the private sector.

For the majority of the population, medical care is provided through government hospitals and health centres. These are financed by general taxation. The private sector is very active, whereby half the population uses it to some degree, and nearly 15 per cent exclusively. It must be noted here that under 9 per cent of pharmacists are employed in the public sector that extends services to nearly 85 per cent of the population. The equation is definitely imbalanced.

"Drugs are a key component of any health system. Drugs serve multiple social, psychological, and political functions; they are not simply used to treat diseases. The market for drugs usually reflects a nation's larger political and economic strategies for development," according to Professor Michael Reich of Harvard University.

When considering the public-private interface, one must recognise the potential value of coop-

erative ventures. The private sector can arrange economical distribution of drugs. This benefits public health programmes by increasing the quality and efficiency of supply services, and making more funds available for drug procurement. The goals and objectives for this interface must be made clear to both the Ministry of Health and to the private sector representatives.

Procurement is the process of acquiring supplies to fill the entire range of drug needs for a public health programme. The steps in the procurement cycle include review drug selections, determine quantities needed, reconcile needs and funds, locate and select suppliers, and specify contract terms.

The government is currently handling this with many constraints in finance and management. It certainly faces a problem of how to expand services, maintain and operate public health services, and improve their quality at all levels. However, the pharmaceutical policy is predominantly a domestic policy and therefore it is the prerogative and responsibility of the government to decide and implement it.

Providing pharmaceuticals through public health services is a costly endeavour due to the administrative constraints, high drug losses and erratic deliveries. The overriding limiting factor to improving health status continues to be the lack of money. This is aggravated by the overgrowth of the population, with an estimated annual growth rate of over 3.5 per cent.

The innovated procurement approach can start with the Ministry of Health setting the minimum annual quantity per product on the Essential Drug List according to surveys that are population, service and consumption-based. This list needs to be defined as this represents the major vehicle by which concerns for relative drug safety, efficacy, and economy may be brought to bear on the prescribing process. The ministry can then call for offers, by open tender to all registered drugstores, which are the link between pharmacies and industries. Pharmacy distribution in turn represents the social justice objectives of the National Health Scheme, in allowing access to all population with the least inconvenience.

Private pharmacies are the backbone of the drug distribution network as they are geographically distributed across the country, allowing easy access and offering quick and efficient dispensing. Pharmacists must always be present in their pharmacies — a legal requirement — and can offer patient counselling and advice. Patients can choose their own pharmacy for dispensing purposes, leading in turn to increased competition among pharmacies to offer better service.

The Ministry of Health is thus expanding existing facilities in the private sector and using them as outlets for public sector goods. Creating new public pharmacies and centres by the ministry would have been a clear duplication of existing facilities, and a wastage of public funds where financial resources are scarce.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) and the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO) actively promote local manufacturing as this reduces the national drug bill, releasing funds for other activities of the health services. Medicines can reach consumers in shorter time, after manufac-

ture, and continuity of supply is improved. Less foreign exchange is required for drug imports. Employment is created in the pharmaceutical industry.

Drug manufacturing is very advanced in Jordan, and manufacturers export nearly 80 per cent of their production. They produce about 40 per cent of the country's drug needs. The industry can support the National Health Scheme as it can formulate much of the country's needs in medicines.

In conclusion, it may be interesting to note that "crisis can always force change." This may be the best time for innovative changes in the pharmacy policy and practice, as the country is

faced with a devalued currency, soaring unemployment, even more scarce financial resources, increased population, a large foreign debt, fiscal deficit and inflation. These factors create enough of a crisis to initiate moves for change which must be seen by the ministry as an opportunity rather than a threat.

Joseph Schumpeter said "The typical entrepreneur's characteristic task consists precisely in breaking up old, and creating new tradition." This we aspire to achieve, as the Ministry of Health can become truly entrepreneurial and become a living example for institutional development, and an innovative leader in the public sector.

Prosecution says Nafeer plotted attacks

(Continued from page 1)

At one point during Monday's session, Sheikh Qarash, brushing aside the court's objections from his own lawyers, he asked the court for his "right" in the case of the witnesses, but the court turned down the request, saying as long as he had not authorised anyone to defend him he could not do so.

"It is either you or your lawyer," the presiding judge told him.

The bearded, white-robed deputy, headed up passing notes to his lawyers in a hurry, one witness took the stand.

At another point, one of the witnesses suggested that the third and fourth defendants were "stealing" the part of the funds that were reaching the occupied territories to support the Palestinian struggle against the occupation.

If he says I was stealing money then means that he was also stealing money with me," shouted fourth defendant Idkdek from the dock before being admonished by the court and offering an apology.

The witnesses who appeared Monday ranged from a Saifi sheikh to Mr. Shbeilat's driver and office manager, some members of the Al Nafeer group, workers at the World of Mirrors and Frames — a shop owned by the third and fourth defendants where was said in court that training was given in assembling explosives — an employee of the Department of the Palestinian Affairs at the Foreign Ministry and another at an insurance company.

Five of the witnesses said they were under detention at the General Intelligence Department (GID) but in connection with investigations into another group called the Martyrs' Committee.

The prosecution sought to block defence lawyers' pointed questions to the witnesses on this group in the beginning. It appeared, as one witness testified, that Sheikh Qarash had allegedly "rescued" the group leader Al Nafeer Al Ismail.

While Mr. Shbeilat's lawyer opted for "no questions" to most of the witnesses (since their testimonies did not name his client), the lawyers of Mr. Qarash — Jamal Dmour and Ahmad Abu Arkoush — and Marwan Kayed, who represent the third and fourth defendants, cross-examined the every witness who incriminated their respective clients. On occasion there was a heated exchange between Mr. Dmour and Kayed.

The first witness to take the stand on Monday was Sheikh Hazem Abu bazzal, head of the Dar Al Koran society. The Sufi sheikh testified that Mr. Shbeilat and Sheikh Qarash are members of the mystic society between 1975 and 1985, when they are asked to leave for "leaving wards politics that violate the doctrine of the mosque."

On cross-examination by the defence, Sheikh Abu Ghazaleh said Sheikh Qarash did not display any "total tendency" while he was a member of the society.

On redirect by the prosecution, he said Sheikh Qarash moved to Jerusalem for a few years in early eighties and had become a "new political personality" when he returned to Amman.

Mr. Shbeilat's driver was the second witness. Daffallah Zureikat, a five of Jerash, said he was an

employee of Mr. Shbeilat's architecture company since 1981 and spent most of his time driving the deputy around the country, particularly since February 1992.

Mr. Zureikat testified that he had bought two Soviet-made Kalashnikov machineguns and 250 bullets for Mr. Shbeilat during the Gulf crisis and that one of the guns was returned since it was an "old model and cost the same as the other." He also bought for Sheikh Qarash 650 bullets, he said.

Sheikh Qarash "asked me how much a Kalashnikov cost and when I said JD 450, he said, 'it is too expensive, I can buy five Sten (guns) for that amount from Sahab,'" Mr. Zureikat said.

The driver also said that he saw Mr. Ayoubi and Mr. Idkdek trying to open the trunk of Mr. Shbeilat's car, a Swedish-made Saab, but that the lock was broken. The trunk could be opened by a knob inside the car, he added.

On cross-examination, Mr. Zureikat told the court that "I know" he (Mr. Shbeilat) asked me to buy him the guns because of the Gulf war, and it became clear to me that it was for the purpose of self-defence." In answer to a question by Mr. Bakr Mr. Zureikat said that Mr. Shbeilat "used to lend his car, and mostly to Yacoub (Qarash)." He added that he heard nothing about transport of weapons until Sheikh Qarash was arrested last month.

The next five witnesses were Mahmoud Abu Ajamleh, an employee of the third and fourth defendants, Mahmoud Ahmad Tayem, an employee of the Department of the Palestinian Affairs at the Foreign Ministry, Imran Abu Sheh, a researcher at Dar Al Jalalah, a research and media organisation in Amman, Hamzah Abdul Aziz, an employee at an insurance company, and Jihad Al Sous, another employee of the third and fourth defendants — testified:

— To the existence of Al Nafeer;

— That they believed Sheikh Qarash was its leader;

— That the group received support from external sources, including the PFLP-GC and the PLO;

— That the group's activities were oriented towards supporting the Palestinian intifada;

— That training was given by the third defendant on assembling explosives and

— That the group was not planning subversion in Jordan.

The eighth witness, Imad Khairi, owner of a tyre and spare parts shop in Jabal Taji, said he knew Mr. Shbeilat and Sheikh Qarash for over 20 years and had business deals with them. It was not very clear what the prosecution was trying to establish through him, although Maj. Hijazi told reporters after the session that the testimony was aimed proving "the usage of Mr. Shbeilat's cars."

Technicians propped up during the testimony of the ninth witness, Mr. Shbeilat's office manager Imad Khairi, who appeared in contradict prosecution assertions related to Sheikh Qarash's two-hour-a-week use of Mr. Shbeilat's office and the search and seizure of documents from the office.

On cross-examination, Mr. Bakr focused on the location of Mr. Shbeilat's private office and whether it was possible for the deputy to see his car parked in the garage. It was not clear what the defence sought to establish, but the court recorded that it was difficult to see from Mr. Shbeilat's office what was happening in the garage.

The trial resumes Tuesday.

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Jordan reaffirms its commitment

(Continued from page 1)

toed the Palestinian people's appreciation of the King's endeavours and thanked Jordan for its help to the Palestinians living under Israeli rule since 1948.

Sheikh Tawfiq Assalieh said

that the Ministry of Awqaf in Amman has been helping the Palestinians to reaffirm their identity in the occupied lands.

Other speakers thanked the government for the facilities offered to Palestinian pilgrims going to Mecca.

Over 250 feared dead in El Al crash

(Continued from page 1)

spokesman said.

He earlier had said the Amsterdam crash was El Al's first. The plane's three crew members and a woman passenger were found in the wreckage of apartments, but it was not

clear if the Israelis were included in that number.

Two Israeli teams, one from El Al and one from the government, would work with an inquiry committee set up by the Dutch government and officials from Boeing, Mr. Rabin told reporters.

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Financial Markets

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	NEW YORK CLOSE	TOKYO CLOSE
	5/10/92	5/10/92
Sterling Pound*	1.7285	1.7158
Deutsche Mark	1.4095	1.4047
Swiss Franc	1.2315	1.2318
French Franc	4.7700	4.7460**
Japanese Yen	119.38	119.25
European Currency Unit	1.3780	1.3840**

* USD Per STD
** European Opening @ 8:00 a.m. GMT

Interbank Interest Rates

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	3.00	3.06	3.06	3.18
Sterling Pound	9.31	9.06	8.75	8.37
Deutsche Mark	9.00	9.06	8.8*	8.31
Swiss Franc	6.56	6.56	6.56	6.37
French Franc	13.00	12.00	10.00	10.00
Japanese Yen	4.12	3.81	3.78	3.75
European Currency Unit	12.62	11.87	11.12	10.37

Interbank bid rates for amounts exceeding U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent.

Forward Rates

Metal	USD/Oz.	JD/Gm	Metal	USD/Oz.	JD/Gm
Gold	349.35	6.60	Silver	3.76	.080

* 21 Karat

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Exchange Rates

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.673	0.675
Sterling Pound	1.1547	1.1605
Deutsche Mark	0.4781	0.4805
Swiss Franc	0.5462	0.5499
French Franc	0.1412	0.1419
Japanese Yen	0.5636	0.5664
Dutch Guilder	0.4250	0.4271
Swedish Krona	0.1263	0.1269
Italian Lira*	0.0540	0.0543
Belgian Franc	0.02306	0.02318

* Per 100

Other Currencies

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.7560	1.7680
Lebanese Lira*	0.02755	0.02945
Saudi Riyal	0.1792	0.1808
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.2350	2.3000
Qatari Riyal	0.1825	0.1834
Egyptian Pound	0.2000	0.2100
Omani Riyal	1.7160	1.7280
UAE Dirham	0.1823	0.1834
Greek Drachma*	0.3675	0.3775
Cypriot Pound	1.5750	1.5950

* Per 100

CAB Indices for Amman Financial Market

Index	3/10/92	Close	4/10/92	Close
All-Share	153.64		154.10	
Banking Sector	118.58		118.50	
Insurance Sector	162.36		164.13	
Industry Sector	198.25		198.75	
Services Sector	220.07		225.39	

* December 31, 1990 = 100

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London Foreign Exchange and bullion markets Monday.

	1.7025/35	U.S. dollars
One sterling	1.2531/36	Canadian dollar
One U.S. dollar	1.3995/4005	Deutsche marks
	1.5750/800	Dutch guilders
	1.2245/55	Swiss francs
	28.83/87	Belgian francs
	4.7350/450	French francs
	1280/1320	Italian lire
	119.35/45	Japanese yen
	5.3100/200	Swedish crowns
	5.7350/450	Norwegian crowns
	5.4350/450	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	\$349.00/349.50	

Trading totals JD580m during first nine months of this year
Volume for the whole of 1991 was a record JD320m

'Returnees from Gulf', 'returnees from Europe' bull shares, stocks at Amman Financial Market

By Samir Shafiq
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The "Deutsche-mark curse," which bedeviled European currencies and stocks last month, was a blessing in disguise to Jordan, as some Jordanian investors were forced to flee Europe and return home after being caught in the crossfire between market forces and financial authorities, trying to defend currencies.

According to Umayya Toukan, general manager of the Amman Financial Market (AFM), there are only two explanations for the JD91 million volume of trade recorded during last month at Jordan's stock exchange.

The first, he said, is the possibility that "returnees from the Gulf" are still pouring money in Jordanian shares and stocks. The second, and more probable, could have come quietly from "returnees from Europe" who must have realized that Jordanian investments were more stable and rewarding than European and U.S. currencies and stocks and, as such, repatriated their savings home.

Dr. Toukan stressed that Jordanian shares were highly rewarding. He based his conviction on an article, published Aug. 14 in USA Today, which ranked Jordan in the seventh place among world stock markets in terms of gains denominated in dollars.

The Philippines ranked first with a 49.6% gain, followed by Hong Kong (37.2%), Chile (28.1%), Indonesia (21.2%), Brazil (13.3%), Switzerland (12.2%) and Jordan (10.6%). The U.S. gain was a mere 0.1 per cent.

The JD91 million trading volume recorded in September is an important figure upon which Dr. Toukan built an in-depth and thorough analysis.

"It proves beyond doubt that

trading on the AFM floor is based on fundamentals and is characterized by a general behaviour of rational and reasonable exchange of investments," he said.

He explained that by "fundamentals" he means the financial standing of a company and its general operations from the viewpoint of sales, profit, management and overall strength.

Dr. Toukan further analysed share trading techniques by explaining why shares of a certain company could rise when it posts a loss or why the price of a share could fall when a certain company is actually making profit.

"The answer could well be that a company announces a loss or a profit that is below market expectations and, as a result, the value of a share will go up or down as the case may be," he pointed out.

Against this analytical scene, Dr. Toukan saw the September trading volume as remarkable, but could not make a projection for the remaining three months of this year.

"One thing is for sure, and that is our monthly trading volume during the first nine months of this year has averaged between JD50-60 million, double the JD20-30 million monthly average of the past year," Dr. Toukan noted.

He said that the volume in April this year had hit an all-time record high of JD127 million; he said the figure was exceptional because banks at that time were heavily extending credits to investors and this brought about the inflated volume.

Trading volume shrank in May after the central bank stepped in to control banking credits and siphon them from the stock market to productive projects. However, the volume returned to the normal JD50-60 million average in the following months until September when JD91 million was posted without any external factor, except, probably, for the "returnees from the Gulf" or "returnees from Europe."

Asked about the general price index or share prices in general, Dr. Toukan said the question was asked over so often; one pressing inquiry though is how long will the stock prices continue to rise.

Dr. Toukan asserted during the interview that some share prices were overvalued, some were undervalued, but it was to the smart investor to decide which was which.

"However, I can honestly say that there is still plenty of room for price adjustment (in both

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET

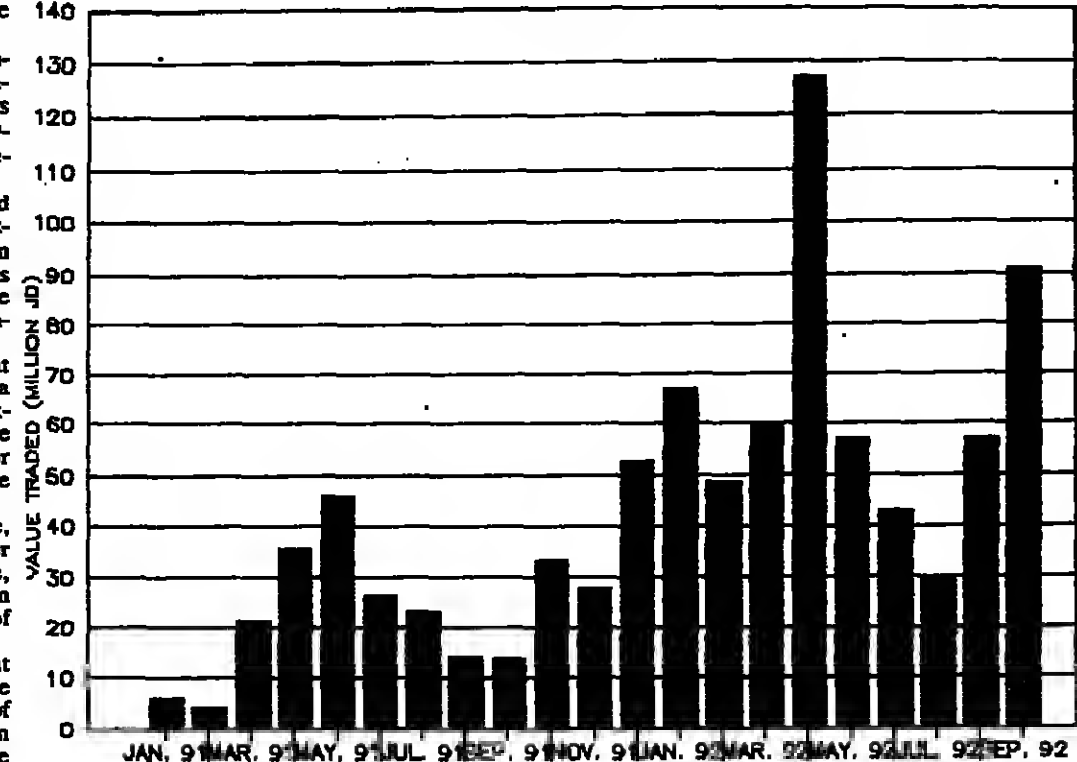


Chart above shows the trading volume at the Amman Financial Market. Below, a scene from the exchange floor



directions) and I will not be worried if some share prices go even higher," he stressed.

He elaborated that some companies have their assets booked at cost and, after depreciation over tens of years, the value of the assets has become negligible when in fact, and at market prices, the value should be in millions.

"This aspect is also an important factor in pricing shares," Dr. Toukan said.

The AFM head concluded by revealing that during the first nine months of this year, the volume of trading was JD580 million, outstripping by far the JD320 million recorded for the whole of 1991.

The January to September 1992 volume was 205 per cent above the JD190 million volume recorded in the first nine months of last year.

Dr. Toukan refused to reveal how much the AFM had earned in various fees and commissions during the past nine months, but when trading was JD320 million last year, AFM earned JD754,888.

At this rate this year, the AFM will easily earn over JD1.5 million.

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Sarajevo buildings blaze in heavy tank, mortar shelling

SARAJEVO (R) — The Holiday Inn Hotel, used as a base by foreign journalists covering the siege of Sarajevo, and buildings around it blazed after heavy shelling Monday.

Three floors of the hotel were set on fire by three direct hits from tanks and two members of a French television crew were slightly hurt by flying glass.

Nearby, an apartment building and an office block were in flames as mortar bombs and machine gunfire shook the area.

The Holiday Inn was hit shortly after 8 a.m. (0700 GMT), apparently by incendiary shells. A fire on the fifth floor was quickly doused but firemen were still tackling blazes on the eighth and ninth floors.

Smoke filled the atrium of the hotel where about 100 people live and work including 60 journalists and television crews.

The attack on the hotel was the first for 10 days but it has been a frequent target during the five-month battle for Sarajevo between Muslims and Serbs who are fighting Bosnian independence.

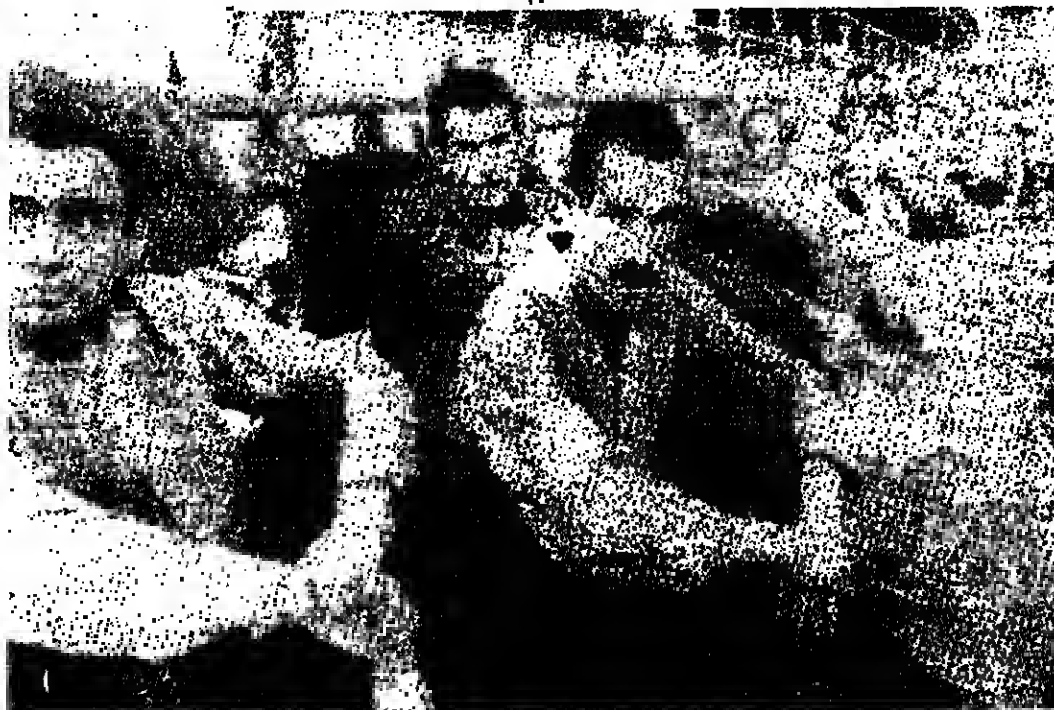
The top storeys were badly damaged by fire earlier this year and the front has three holes punched by tank shells several months ago and never repaired.

In fighting during the night, at least two people were killed and eight wounded in shelling of the Muslim suburb of Dobrinja beside Sarajevo Airport.

The old town and city centre were hit by sporadic mortar fire and infantry fighting was reported in the mainly-Croat sector of Stup which controls a main approach to Sarajevo.

Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic threatened Monday to quit international peace efforts if a no-fly zone, promoted in the United Nations Security Council by the United States, is imposed over Bosnia.

"The Bosnian Serbs will immediately withdraw from the United Nations and EC peace process if such a proposal is adopted by the U.N. or the EC," Mr. Karadzic said.



Muslim and Croat prisoners are held in the hall of the Manjaca detention camp near Banja Luka in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

He told U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali in a letter a no-fly zone would give a strategic advantage to Bosnian Muslim forces and "leave wounded Serbs stranded and many civilians without food and supply lines."

The office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees said it hoped to speed up humanitarian aid to 380,000 people trapped in the Bosnian capital after five aid flights restored an international breadhead to Sarajevo over the weekend.

A U.S. C-130 Hercules carrying food, Saturday, to become the first aid plane to reach Sarajevo since a previous airlift was halted a month ago after an Italian aircraft was shot down.

The dangers to humanitarian flights in former Yugoslavia were highlighted by the second attack in less than a week on U.N. helicopters approaching Zagreb Airport.

The United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) said it had

expressed consternation to the Croatian government after two U.N. helicopters came under fire while approaching Zagreb on a medical evacuation mission Friday.

Both helicopters landed safely and without damage at Zagreb Airport. Croatia blamed a similar attack a week ago on a soldier opening fire without orders.

The Bosnian Medical Crisis Centre said 49 people were killed and 130 wounded in Bosnia in the 24 hours up to 10 a.m. on Sunday, including four dead and 57 wounded in Sarajevo.

The Red Cross said Monday Bosnia's warring parties had agreed to release all their prisoners from the conflict, both civilian and military, by the end of the month.

A spokeswoman for the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) said representatives from Bosnia's Muslim-led government and from Serb and Croat factions agreed the release in a two-day meeting at ICRC

headquarters last week. "It's a great step forward," she said. The ICRC, which has already visited 12,000 prisoners in Bosnia-Herzegovina, will monitor the release.

According to the agreement, the various factions will give full details of the names and locations of all prisoners from the conflict by Oct. 15. Officials say the exact number of detainees is not known.

Those detainees not accused of already convicted of grave breaches of international humanitarian law will be "unilaterally and unconditionally released" by the end of the month.

The prisoners will be able to say whether they prefer to be released on the spot, transferred elsewhere in safety or kept in custody.

International humanitarian agencies are keen not to be seen to be encouraging "ethnic cleansing", where violence or the threat of violence is used to create ethnically homogeneous areas.

Nakasone warns party of Japanese voter ire

TOKYO (R) — A former Japanese prime minister warned his ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) warned Monday of rising public anger over a money scandal but the opposition flubbed an opportunity to take electoral revenge.

Shin Kanemaru, 78, most influential of the LDP barons, has admitted taking 500 million yen (\$4.2 million) in illegal political funds from Sagawa Kyubin, a big trucking firm linked to gangsters, in 1990.

"People today think that politicians and governments are like these people... to throw away," former Premier Yasuhiro Nakasone told a convention of LDP members and supporters in Kanamari, south of Tokyo, Monday.

"If the party (LDP) keeps doing sloppy things, we may be thrown away like this. People are closely following the results of our electoral reform (plans)," he added.

Mr. Nakasone himself spent nearly a year in the sidelines until last year because of a stock-fund scandal which happened during his 1983-87 tenure in office.

Prosecutors let Mr. Kanemaru escape with a summary indictment and a 200,000 yen (\$1,700) fine, a surprisingly lenient punishment which triggered a public outcry.

After paying the fine last week, Mr. Kanemaru made a short statement apologising for his conduct and then was back at his faction office, carrying on business as usual.

Influential younger members of the party have started to speak out against Mr. Kanemaru, and Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa Sunday publicly apologised for the scandal.

He has promised a package of bills to clean up Japan's money-churning electoral system by November.

Other leaders have warned the party would lose support but have refrained from publicly blaming Mr. Kanemaru.

Nevertheless, the debate involving his sponsor Mr. Kanemaru has hurt Mr. Miyazawa's popularity in opinion polls. A TV Tokyo survey at the weekend said only 22 per cent supported his government while 64 per cent said they opposed him.

About 90 per cent of the 1,000 eligible voters polled across the country said Mr. Kanemaru should leave parliament.

By heading the party's biggest faction, Mr. Kanemaru has picked prime ministers, including Mr. Miyazawa, almost at will since the late 1980s, earning himself the nickname "kingmaker."

Mr. Kanemaru quit as LDP vice president in late August, but has refused to quit his parliament seat and as head of the faction.

The divided opposition Monday threw away a golden opportunity to exploit this public anger by agreeing to back the LDP candidate in a key regional election.

The 20-day campaign for the Oct. 25 election for the governor of Niigata began Monday.

ANC rejects Buthelezi ultimatum on peace talks

JOHANNESBURG (R) — The African National Congress on Monday rejected Zulu leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi's demand that the ANC's military wing should be disbanded as a precondition for his return to multi-party democracy talks.

"Not under any circumstances," said ANC spokeswoman Gill Marcus.

She said in an interview the future of the ANC's army, Umkhonto/We Sizwe (MK, Spear of the Nation), could be settled only under a democratic government.

Marcus said MK suspended military activities in 1990, but would be disbanded only as part of a rationalisation of South Africa's many security forces and homeland armies.

Mr. Buthelezi dashed hopes for an early resumption of stalled all-race democracy talks Sunday when he told supporters at a rally near Durban he wanted the ANC's armed wing disbanded.

Claiming that MK soldiers still plan and launch attacks against his Inkatha Freedom Party, he said: "MK has got to go. There can be no negotiations at a national level while the ANC's army remains intact."

Ms. Marcus said the ANC wanted Inkatha to be involved in talks about a transition from white rule to democracy, but would not bow to Mr. Buthelezi's ultimatum on MK.

"Like his own KwaZulu police, which is a private army of Inkatha, MK must be placed under the multi-party control of an interim government," she said.

Mr. Buthelezi pulled out of negotiations last week after ANC leader Nelson Mandela and President F.W. de Klerk struck a deal on the release of political prisoners and measures to curb township violence.

The ANC and Mr. Buthelezi's conservative Inkatha are the main rivals in a township power struggle that has killed more than 2,500 people in the past year and 13,000 since 1984.

Meanwhile, South Africa's Nelson Mandela received an honorary degree from China's Peking University Monday, and immediately made his hosts uncomfortable by lecturing them on the value of human rights.

Speaking in what was the heart of China's ill-fated 1989 pro-democracy movement, the ANC president repeated his belief in civil liberties that Peking's critics say no-one in China enjoys.

"The African National Congress at its inauguration embraced a number of values, principles and ideals (embodying) ... the human rights culture," he told a carefully selected group of about 400 students from the university's English, philosophy and law departments.

"Our commitment to these ideals has equally persuaded us to oppose any political arrangement that will result in domination of either the majority by the minority or of the minority by the majority," he said.

Mr. Mandela began his six-day visit to China Sunday wearing the hat of international statesman rather than pro-democracy activist.

China and South Africa are moving towards diplomatic relations, and Peking is expected to seek Mr. Mandela's opinion on the timetable when he meets Premier Li Peng and Communist Party chief Jiang Zemin.

Peking's leaders have hailed Mr. Mandela as a hero and China has long been a strong supporter of the anti-apartheid struggle.

Nevertheless, at Peking University Mr. Mandela delivered a speech stuffed with democratic rhetoric to an audience that has been subjected to vice-like political controls since China crushed the 1989 protests with tanks and troops.

While Mr. Mandela avoided castigating Peking by name, his message was clear.

"The ANC has consistently argued that it will not be possible to resolve the problems of our country peacefully while there is no respect for such basic civil liberties as the right of peaceful assembly, the right of peaceful protest and the right to join and support the political party of one's choice," he said.

Law And Order Restoration Council (SLORC), seized power in September, 1988. It has held Aung San Suu Kyi in detention at her home on Rangoon's University Avenue since July 20, 1989.

The dissident leader, daughter of assassinated national independence hero Aung San, is accused of subversion but has never been formally charged.

SLORC, the latest manifestation of a military oligarchy that has ruled Burma for 30 years, says it will release her only if she will renounce politics and leave the country — terms she has rejected according to her British husband, Michael Aris, who was allowed to visit her earlier this year.

Despite her detention, Mrs. Aung San Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy won a general election held in May, 1990, by a landslide.

The generals refused to honour the result and arrested the remainder of the party's most influential members.

The junta, known as the State

Mrs Bush: promiscuous sex is death

WASHINGTON (AP) — First lady Barbara Bush says the national debate over abortion should focus on persuading children that "promiscuous sex is death."

Appearing with President George Bush on the Cable News Network's Larry King Live programme in a taped interview Sunday, Mrs. Bush suggested the news media put too much emphasis on the question of conditions under which abortion should be legal.

"I think the issue is that we ought to tell children that sex is death," Mrs. Bush said in the White House interview. "It is. Promiscuous sex is death. They shouldn't be doing that. We ought to be telling these wonderful young women there's a great deal of life out there for you if you finish school, if you get a job, and then you can have a family. But you shouldn't be having promiscuous sex. It just ruins your life."

Mrs. Bush has never publicly explained her position on abortion rights. In the interview, the president said he supported the abortion plank of the Republican Party national campaign platform — which advocates outlawing abortion under all circumstances — and stated his personal views this way: "I am against abortion. I am against federal funding except for the life of the mother, and I am against abortions except for rape, incest and the life of the mother."

Prices down, insanity up in Indonesia

JAKARTA (R) — Tumbling tin and pepper prices have led to increased insanity on the Indonesian island of Bangka where the economy depends on the two commodities, the daily Merdeka reported Monday. The island's mental hospital is close to running out of beds, it quoted health officials as saying. Most patients were pepper farmers or employees of the state tin firm, which has halved its workforce.

"Most of the cases are caused by economic difficulties," an official said. Prices of both tin and pepper have fallen sharply in recent years on world markets.

BRUSSELS (R) — Belgium has the highest road accident rate of any country in the European Community, the Belgian News Agency, Belga, said. The agency, quoting data released in Paris by insurance research body Centre de Documentation Et d'Information de l'Assurance, said in Belgium 203 people were killed or injured per 10,000 cars. Belgium's rate is more than three times greater than the safest nation, Denmark, which recorded only 59 deaths or injuries per 10,000 cars. France and Italy followed with 83 each. Countries with high accident rates included Portugal (168), Germany (138) and Britain (136).

No knighthoods please, we're not British — Keating

CANBERRA (R) — Prime Minister Paul Keating has secured the agreement of Britain's Queen Elizabeth to close off one of the last avenues through which an Australian can win a knighthood. Mr. Keating's office announced that the federal and state governments would no longer recommend citizens for imperial honours, leaving only the Australian honours system as a way of recognising outstanding contributors to society. The pro-republican prime minister said the queen had indicated she believed it was appropriate for Australian citizens to be recognised by the Australian honours system. All state premiers were consulted on the issue, he said. "We have agreed that Australian governments, both state and Commonwealth (federal), will henceforth cease to make recommendations for British honours," Mr. Keating said. The arrangement formalises changes introduced by the government of Gough Whitlam in 1975 when it established the Order of Australia as an alternative to honours from the former colonial ruler. Most governments have since adhered to the Australian system, although administrations in Queensland and Tasmania continued to recommend Australians for knighthoods. A spokesman for Mr. Keating denied the change was part of the prime minister's push for an Australian republic, saying it was just a matter of tidying up the old arrangements.

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

Refugees fight off skinheads in Germany

BONN (AP) — Enraged refugees swung clubs and hurled rocks to fend off about 40 far-right "skinheads" who shouted xenophobic slogans outside an East German asylum shelter, police said Monday. A number of refugees and right-wing radicals were hurt in the Sunday night skirmish in Ellernburg near Dresden but it was not clear how many, police said. Right-wing radicals have blackened Germany's international image with a string of daily attacks against refugees and asylum seekers. The Sueddeutsche Zeitung newspaper reported that up until Sept. 27, there had been reports of 1,296 extreme rightist attacks across Germany. The number is quickly approaching a record 1,483 far-right attacks reported last year. According to Ellernburg police, a band of right-wing radicals gathered in front of the local refugee centre Sunday night and began shouting xenophobic slogans. "Male residents of the home armed themselves with sticks, clubs and rocks and gave the (German) youths a regular thrashing," said Police Chief Bernd Gasch. The refugees are mostly from former Yugoslavia, Vietnam, Bulgaria and Albania.

Senior rebel killed in Kashmir

SRINAGAR, India (R) — Indian troops killed a Kashmiri rebel leader after sealing off an area where more than 250 Kashmiri militants were meeting, police said Monday. The bullet-riddled body of Altaf Ahmad Qureshi, chief of the Ikhwan-ul-Muslimeen, or Muslim Brotherhood, was found in Srinagar Sunday after an outbreak of gunfire during the operation, said police officials. Mr. Qureshi's group is one of more than a dozen that are fighting Indian rule in the scenic valley. The crackdown in the crowded area around Srinagar's main mosque, the Jamia Masjid, began Saturday. Hundreds of paramilitary troops and army soldiers besieged the area, from which reporters were barred. Sporadic gunfire could be heard throughout the weekend. Police later said at least 18 senior militants were arrested. Local residents, contacted by telephone, said some 200 others had managed to escape. Search operations continued Monday and residents said some 30 militants were trapped. Elsewhere in Srinagar, five militants were killed by security forces on Sunday after a four-hour gunbattle, police said.

Kennedy conspiracy theory dismissed

CHICAGO (R) — A pathologist who performed an autopsy on John F. Kennedy dismissed conspiracy theories Monday, saying he agreed with two colleagues that the president was killed by two bullets fired from above and behind. Since Mr. Kennedy's death on Nov. 22, 1963, people have speculated more than one gunman may have been involved and he was shot from both the front and rear. Such theories have been most recently fuelled by the film JFK. But in an interview in the American Medical Association journal, Pierre Finck says: "We got it right in 1963 and it still stands in 1992... there were two bullets striking from behind, and there is no evidence of any wounds from the front." The Swiss-born Finck was a U.S. Army lieutenant colonel at the time of Kennedy's assassination. He participated in the autopsy at the U.S. Naval Medical Centre in Bethesda, Maryland, with U.S. Navy pathologists James Humes and Thornton Boswell. Finck's remarks tally with the Warren Commission which investigated the shooting and with Humes and Boswell, who broke a 24-year silence in an interview in the same journal last May.

MPLA heads for victory in Angola

LUANDA (R) — The ruling MPLA headed for victory against a former civil war foe Monday after partial results showed the previously Marxist movement well ahead of key rival UNITA which alleged widespread fraud at the polls. National Electoral Council sources said that, with some 80 per cent of the four million-odd ballots counted from the Sept. 29-30 poll, the MPLA was virtually guaranteed victory in the legislative race. Returns showed President Eduardo Dos Santos with 51.54 per cent compared to almost 39 per cent won by UNITA chief Jonas Savimbi. The sources expected the president to hover just above 50 per cent, narrowly avoiding a run-off. The MPLA (Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola) had nearly 56 per cent versus the nearly 33 per cent polled by UNITA (National Union for the Total Independence of Angola) in voting for the 223-seat parliament.

Brunei sultan urges help for Muslims in Bosnia

RANDAR SERI BEGAWAN

BRUNEI (AP) — The sultan of Brunei marked his 25th anniversary on the throne Monday by riding through the streets of the capital in a chariot pulled by 40 men, followed by his two wives in a Rolls-Royce.

Sultan Sir Hassanall Bolkiah is considered the world's richest man because, as absolute monarch, he has Brunei's oil income and foreign currency reserves effectively at his disposal — a potential wealth of \$37 billion.

In a 10-minute speech, the sultan pledged \$1 million of his own money to a national fund to aid Muslims in Bosnia-Herzegovina and urged Brunei's 261,000 people to also make donations.

"We are aware that the Muslims there are being betrayed and oppressed. It is therefore our policy to oppose this atrocity while at the same time joining (others) in extending our assistance," he said.

The 46-year-old sultan said in his speech that Brunei's absolute monarchy has worked well. "The relationship between the monarch and the people is not purely based on the tradition of the ruler and the people, but it is also due to a sense of mutual responsibility in carrying out together the 'amanah' (trust) of Allah," he said.

After an audience for visiting royalty and government leaders in his 1,778-room palace, the world's largest, the sultan led a ceremonial procession to greet his subjects, who lined the three-kilometre (nearly two-mile) procession route by the thousands.

He smiled and waved from a brown chariot encrusted with gold. It was equipped with a throne topped with a yellow parasol, and pulled by 40 army officers clad in ceremonial black trimmed with gold.

The sultan was clad in royal yellow and wore an open-top head band and many medals.

WASHINGTON (R) — President George Bush Sunday blamed much of America's economic gloom on a negative press and anticipated the question on which his presidency may stand or fall by saying many people are better off now than before.

As Mr. Bush mounted a spirited defence on what is clearly his weakest political front, Democratic rival Bill Clinton addressed an economic problem of his own by announcing qualified support for a free-trade pact among the United States, Canada and Mexico.

Mr. Clinton, accused by Mr. Bush of "waffling" on the issue, said he would back the North American Free Trade Agreement provided that he, as president, could ensure that Congress strengthens it with provisions protecting U.S. jobs and the environment.

The comments by the Republican president and the Democratic nominee framed pocketbook issues sure to figure heavily in the rapid-fire round of three presidential campaign debates that are also expected to include independent challenger Ross Perot. They begin next Sunday, Oct. 11, with the follow-ups on Oct. 15 and 19.

The latest in a series of daily "tracking polls" done for CNN and USA Today by the Gallup group showed Mr. Clinton holding a solid lead of 49 per cent to 36 for Mr. Bush and 8 for Mr. Perot.

That was barely changed from polls done Friday and Saturday following Mr. Perot's return to

Bush says many Americans better off; Clinton backs trade pact

the race and they suggested that voters may be awaiting the debates before changing any views.

Mr. Bush got the opportunity to defend his economic record at length during a televised interview on CNN's Larry King Live show, insisting he has been "technically" correct in insisting the recession is over even though he realises politicians cannot "tell that to the guy that's unemployed."

Advancing an argument sure to be lampooned by the Democrats and other critics, he blamed much of the electorate's economic pessimism on constant negative press reporting.

"Yes, things have been tough, but they haven't been that tough," he said. "There's been some encouraging things. I can click them off for you: Interest rates down, inflation down, businesses ready, poised for recovery."

Asked if he were getting "a bad rap" on the economy, Mr. Bush replied: "I don't think I'm getting a particularly good one."

Probably anticipating strikes on this very line by Mr. Clinton, Mr. Bush posed for himself the famous question his predecessor, Ronald Reagan, raised in his 1980 campaign debate with incumbent Jimmy Carter: Are you better off now than you were?

"Well, is a home owner better off that can refinance his home/ her home at interest rates substantially lower than they were? Is a senior citizen better off or worse off today?"

"I'd say better off because inflation that robs the person of

those savings is in the box. We've got them contained."

He said businesses were somewhat better off because they have slimmed down and "they're poised for a fine recovery."

Mr. Clinton, who has been scoffing at Mr. Bush's claims that economic recovery is just around the corner, tried to resolve questions about where he himself stands on the North American Trade Pact in a speech at North Carolina State University.

The issue is a tough one for Mr. Clinton because, although he generally supports free trade, his union supporters fear the impact of cheap Mexican labour will cost many U.S. jobs.

"If it is done right, it will create jobs in the United States and Mexico, and if it is done right... we can raise our incomes," he said.

He said that he, as president, would hammer out supplemental agreements with Mexico and Canada to protect U.S. jobs and environmental standards while Mr. Bush would not.

President Bush, rejecting charges of having improperly coddled Iraq before the Gulf War, suggested Sunday that Mr. Clinton was among those who sought to befriend Saddam Hussein's government.

Mr. Bush said that Mr. Clinton, as governor of Arkansas, had met Iraq's ambassador in connection with farm sales to Iraq.

Mr. Clinton, responding on the campaign trail in North Carolina, confirmed that he met the envoy 6½ years ago in the Arkansas

capital of Little Rock. He said he did so as a courtesy after a speech in line with the Bush administration's policy at the time of pursuing grain sales to Iraq.

"It was his policy and I certainly didn't know that they (the Iraqis) ever, even after that, were converting the credits for military purposes. This shows you how desperate and pathetic they are. They will not take responsibility for what they have done," Mr. Clinton said.

In the interview with Larry King, Mr. Bush said he had nothing to apologise for over the failed policy of extending farm credits and other help to Iraq in hopes the Iraqi leader would pursue moderate policies.

Iraq used the credits to build up its war machine and pursue a nuclear capability. The Democrats have seized on the failure of the policy in an effort to diminish Mr. Bush's greatest foreign policy success, the Gulf War.

"They're trying to chip away at an outstanding foreign policy where we've changed the world, for heaven's sake — dramatically changed it for the better," Mr. Bush said.

Before the Aug. 2, 1990, Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, the Bush administration courted Baghdad in an effort to turn it into a stabilising influence in the Middle East. One part of that policy involved a federal programme under which the U.S. government co-signs bank loans for poor countries that want to buy American farm products. Mr. Bush backed the guarantees for Iraq despite misgivings from several

U.S. agencies concerned about Iraq's ability and willingness to pay back its debts.

In terms of trying to make some kind of scandal out of it, do you know who wanted to do grain credit loans and get a hold on Mr. (Nizar) Haddadin, the Iraq ambassador, on grain credits?" Mr. Bush asked rhetorically.

"Governor Clinton," he said. "I believe that's the case. Ask him tomorrow," the Democratic presidential nominee is to follow Mr. Bush as Mr. King's guest.

Mr. Bush went on: "I think he met with him and wanted — you know, was pleased that the U.S. agricultural loans — we were making agricultural loans. We were trying to bring the guy along."

President Bush said Sunday that if he is reelected he would like James Baker, currently White House chief of staff, to resume his role as secretary of state.

But Mr. Bush was noncommittal when asked about the futures of Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady and Budget Director Richard Darman.

Mr. Baker, Mr. Bush's long-time friend and adviser, reluctantly left the State Department in August to run the White House and try to revive the president's struggling reelection bid.

As secretary of state, Mr. Baker was pivotal in bringing Arabs and Israelis to the peace table for negotiations that began last autumn in Madrid. A seventh round of talks is scheduled to begin on Oct. 21 in Washington.